

It's about wins

Points on the score-board are more important than style points to Mike Tomlin. **1B**



THE Valley INDEPENDENT

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Valley Business

In a fast-changing industry, auto engineers are facing career changes. **2C**

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 2009

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INSIDE TODAY



Continuing Pride

Freshness and quality products are mainstays at The Big Barn Country Store & Deli. **1C**

Still involved

Bill Buck was born into the auto business and is still involved. **3A**

Warning issued

Counterterrorism officials have issued security bulletins to police around the nation about terrorists' desire to attack stadiums, entertainment complexes and hotels. **5A**

SPORTS



Bucs lose to Reds

The Pirates cemented their spot in the standings. **1B**



Pens lose

The Penguins fell in a shootout to the Toronto Maple Leafs. **2B**

DEATHS

- Linda B. Beresford, 62, Victory Hill, Monongahela
- William C. Boyd Jr., 74, Monessen
- Stella A. Blacka, 75, Belle Vernon
- Virginia A. "Jean" Hasch, 85, Monessen
- Clara B. Strickler, 101, Arnold City, Belle Vernon

Page 4A

WEATHER

Tonight
Mostly cloudy 64°
Tomorrow
Partly sunny 75°
Page 2A

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Three sections, 22 Pages

TOMORROW

Read Valley Entertainment, a regular Thursday feature of *The Valley Independent*.

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Truck claims disputed

Gerald Szakal's attorney contends the pick-up contained two people.

By **CHRIS BUCKLEY**

Staff Writer
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The defense has contended two people were in a truck seen driving near the home of Howard and Nancy Springer the night the Carroll Township couple was murdered.

That truck, though, was not the getaway vehicle used on March 4, 2008, the night Gerald Szakal robbed and fatally shot the couple inside their 1241 Highland Road home, state police Cpl. Beverly Ashton testified Tuesday.



Under guard, Gerald Szakal walks outside the Washington County Court-house, where he is standing trial for the murder of a Carroll Township couple.

Jim Ference/The Valley Independent

According to court records, Szakal stole jewelry and rare coins from his mother's Rostraver Township home, selling them to

the Springers before returning to the couple's home to rob and kill them.

The give and take between

Ashton and defense attorney Noah Geary highlighted the second day of Szakal's capital murder trial in Washington County Court.

If convicted, Szakal could face the death penalty.

Geary is out to prove that co-conspirator Tecko Dwayne Tartt, 21, formerly of Donora, killed the retired police chief and his wife. Tartt, accused of providing the murder weapon, is one of three co-conspirators expected to testify against Szakal.

Geary contended that Ashton knew there were two people in Szakal's truck the night of the murders. The commonwealth contends Szakal went to the

(See DISPUTED, Page 2A)

Grad exam opposition on rise

There is no money in the budget plan to pay for the controversial tests.

By **BRAD BUMSTED**

For The Valley Independent
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HARRISBURG — A groundswell of public opposition to high school graduation exams is reflected in the 161 House members who signed onto a resolution to block the state Department of Education from implementing the program.

With almost 80 percent of the 203-member House agreeable, action on the resolution is likely even though it is held up in the House Education Committee, lawmakers say.

"There is absolutely strong legislative concern and disapproval of those (testing) regulations," said House Minority Leader Sam Smith, R-Punxsutawney, who co-sponsored the resolution.

The opposition is growing. Last week, 20 House Democrats signed the resolution.

The resolution is significant as the debate over high school graduation exams moves to an obscure five-member regulatory panel, which next month will decide whether the plan Gov. Ed Rendell pushed can get under way. The Senate would need to pass the resolution and Rendell must sign it to effectively kill the regulations.

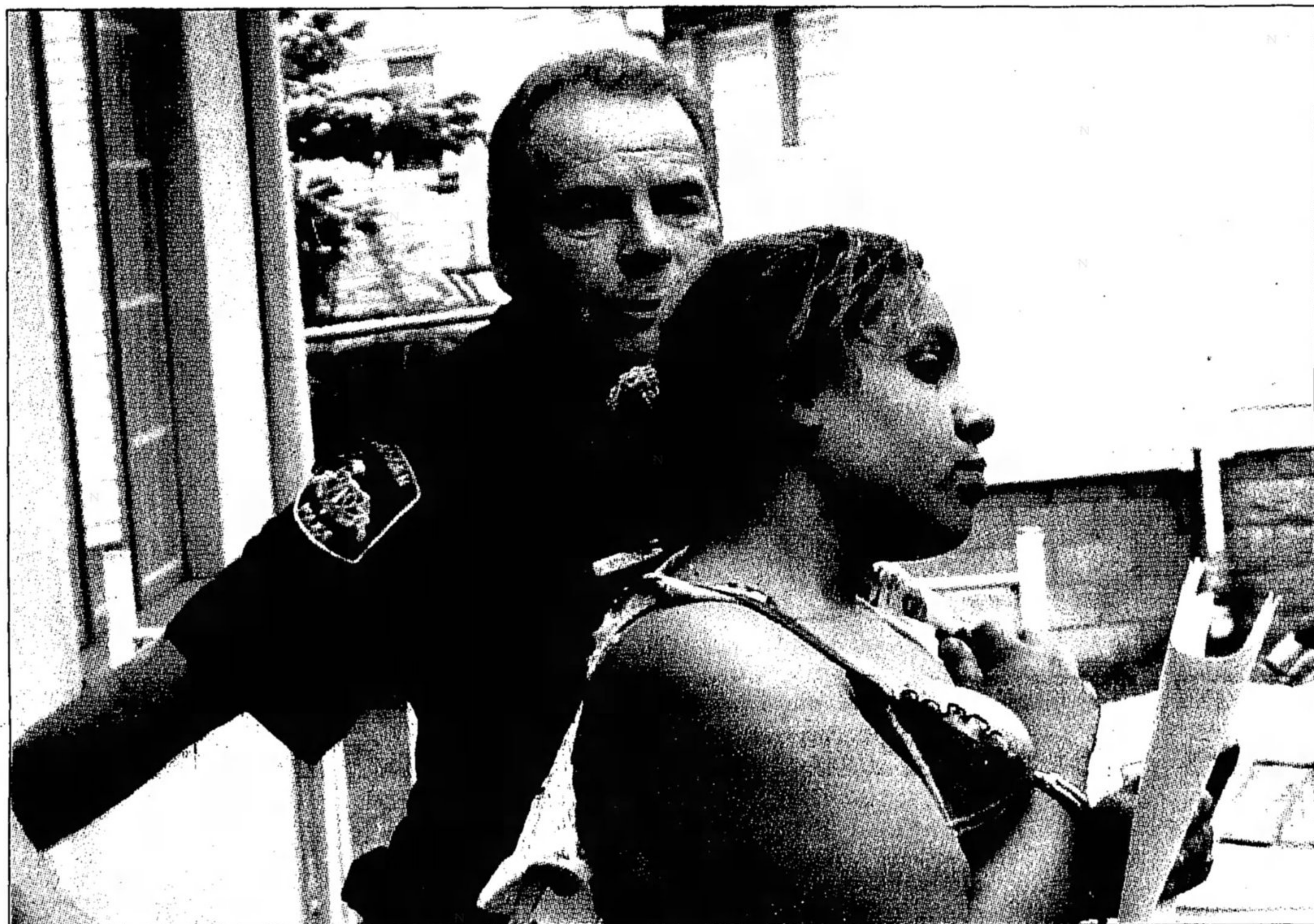
The Independent Regulatory Review Commission will, among other things, consider "legislative intent" behind Rendell's proposal. Before an Oct. 22 meeting of the commission, the Legislature will have an opportunity to voice its support for or opposition to the proposal.

The resolution, combined with a pending state budget that apparently doesn't fund the exams, could help persuade the commission to reject the regulations, said Sen. Jane Orie, R-McCandless, an outspoken critic of the exams.

"Why are we now starting a program that won't even be implemented until this administration is long gone?" said Orie.

Some business leaders say the exams could improve the quality of Pennsylvania's work force. But 22 education organizations and 219 of

(See GRAD EXAM, Page 2A)



Jim Ference/The Valley Independent

Monessen police Lt. Ed Lyons escorts Seairia D. Henderson, 22, of 328 Highland Manor, Monessen, from Magisterial District Judge Charles Christner's West Newton office. She was arraigned Tuesday on charges related to the death of her 7-month-old son, Malachi Craig Anthony Henderson.

Monessen mother charged in 7-month-old son's death

Seairia Henderson is being held without bond in the Westmoreland County Prison.

By **STACY WOLFORD**

Staff Writer
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WEST NEWTON — The mother of a 7-month-old baby who died after being left alone in a bathtub Sept. 11 said her actions on that day were "irresponsible."

Monessen police and the Westmoreland County District Attorney's office claim Seairia D. Henderson's actions that day were not only reckless, but directly resulted in her infant's death.

Henderson, 22, of 328 Highland Manor, was arrested Tuesday morning and charged with one count of criminal homicide and two counts each of endangering the welfare of children and recklessly endangering another person.

She was arraigned before Magisterial District Judge Charles Christner in West Newton.

Wearing pink flip-flops, sweat pants and a tank-top, Henderson told Christner she buried her son, Malachi Craig Anthony

Henderson, last week.

"I know my actions were irresponsible, but no one can say that I don't love my children," said Henderson, who has two other children, ages 6 and 2. "They are my kids. That's all I have."

Malachi was found unresponsive in the bathtub at their apartment sometime from 1:15 p.m. and 1:30 p.m. Sept. 11.

After Henderson called 911, Monessen police Lt. Carl Fronzaglio and officer Jim Franks arrived at the apartment and saw the baby lying naked on the living room floor with Henderson attempting to administer cardiopulmonary resuscitation via instructions from a Westmoreland County 911 dispatcher.

That's when the police officers took over CPR and noted that a large amount of water was coming out of the baby's nose and mouth, according to an affidavit of probable cause.

Ambulance crewmen Shawn Cummings and Doug Prentice arrived and continued CPR while transporting the infant to

Monongahela Valley Hospital in Carroll Township.

From there, Malachi was taken to UPMC Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh, where he died 8:52 p.m. Sept. 13.

"I know my actions were irresponsible, but no one can say that I don't love my children."

SEAIRIA HENDERSON

The Allegheny County Medical Examiner's Office said the cause of death was lack of oxygen to the brain because of submersion in water.

During Monessen police Lt. Ed Lyons' investigation, witnesses allegedly reported Henderson had been seen outside her apartment while Malachi and his 2-year-old sister, Ah-reah Henderson, were unattended in the bathtub.

According to the affidavit, Sable Ford told police she stayed

(See MOTHER, Page 2A)

Fayette set to move on next VA office boss

By **MARY PICKELS**

For The Valley Independent
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The Fayette County commissioners Tuesday confirmed that the vacant position of veterans affairs director will be advertised as soon as possible.

Board Chairman Vincent Zapotosky said earlier this month he would support posting the position as soon as the state

budget was resolved.

He and Commissioner Vincent Vicites also said they wanted to review the job description before posting it.

Commissioner Angela Zimmerlink favored posting the position soon after Floyd "Wayne" Coddington resigned in August. It was the sixth time in five years that a director has quit.

The state budget stalemate led to a temporary hiring freeze for

county positions. But as the stalemate appears headed toward resolution, the board decided to advertise the director's job.

"I think we need to move forward on this," Vicites said yesterday. "It's a very important position."

Donnie Coleman will address the board at a meeting Thursday. Coleman, 62, of Lemont Furnace, has asked veterans to attend the

(See FAYETTE, Page 2A)

VALLEY PEOPLE

Fayette (FROM PAGE ONE)

10 a.m. meeting to show support for the director's position.

Earlier this month, he posted fliers announcing a rally planned at the courthouse 11 a.m. Friday and said veterans need an advocate in the Veterans' Affairs Office.

He estimated there are about 17,000 veterans in the county.

"We have veterans who need taken care of and who spend money in the county," he said. "We need somebody who stays put, and we need the commissioners to help him or her stay there."

The commissioners will consider a proposal for Vicites to organize a meeting of municipal officials and the general

public, possibly at Penn State Fayette, The Eberly Campus to consider forming a complete count committee for the 2010 census.

If Fayette County fails to retain its fourth-class county status, Vicites said, it could lead to a loss in funding and hinder competition for grant money.

During the last census, Fayette had a 61 percent rate of responding to census questionnaires, the second lowest in southwestern Pennsylvania, he said.

"I think a public meeting would be in order," Zapotosky said.

"It may be a way of educating the public the census is in no way an invasion of their privacy."

Grad exam (FROM PAGE ONE)

501 school districts are on record against them. Opponents cite the \$161 million cost over seven years and an unfunded mandate on school districts.

The state Board of Education last month approved the tests, which would begin in 2015 but be optional for school districts. The state wants the exams to eventually replace the Pennsylvania System of School Assessments, or PSSA tests.

If that happens, the exams would not be optional, Orie said.

In May, the Rendell administration announced a contract with a Minnesota company to produce the exams, angering lawmakers who questioned spending millions while the state faced a \$3.2 billion deficit.

"The local (cost) impact is going to be huge," said Orie.

The budget agreement among legislative leaders and Rendell does not include about \$9 million Rendell sought to establish the graduation exams,

according to Senate Republican leaders.

Anna Fitzsimmons, deputy chief of staff to Senate Appropriations Chairman Jake Corman, R-Centre County, said there's no money for the exams. But there is no language in the budget specifically precluding the Education Department from paying for the exams, she said.

"We have not agreed to cut this line (item), and we will do all we can to ensure that sufficient funds are in place," said Rendell's spokesman, Gary Tuma.

"We want accountability in education. We want to know we're getting something for our tax dollars," said David Patti, president and CEO of the Pennsylvania Business Council, a public policy and political organization for the state's largest employers. "We think the best way to do that is to implement statewide standards and testing to make sure we're living up to those standards."

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Do you know an older Valley resident who just does not understand the meaning of retirement? If so, your friend or loved one — and maybe even you — could be featured in Active Seniors, which appears each Friday in *The Valley Independent*. To nominate an Active Senior, please send an e-mail to jabramowitz@tribweb.com or call Joe Abramowitz at (724) 684-2634.

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Yesteryear



Students at the former Rodgers School in Fallowfield Township are pictured in 1930. First row, from left, W. Zaph, J. Blisovich, S. Mudrick, N.D. Sphar, R. Mudrick, W. Crow, R. Warren and H. Keller; second row, B. Prichardt, C. Keller, E. Wilson, D. Langer, I. Black, W. Nutting, M. Brasseur, M. Walla, E. Bezi, P. Bezi, V. Walker and F. Strasseur; third row, A. Keller, F. Waker, H.G. Hartman, A. Blisovich, W. Sphar, H. Bochak, H. Mudrick, B. Wallace, E. Duke, M.C. Andrews, H. Warren and R. Glasser; fourth row, G. Walker, W. Henry, J. DeAmbroggi, A. Debnar, F. Lisovich, W. Debnar, K. Dolan, C. Gallagher, A. Kalnicky, A. Armbruster and the teacher, Miss or Mrs. Reed. The photo was submitted by Goldie Mudrick, of Charleroi.

Weather

Thursday



High 75
Low 52

Friday



High 71
Low 52

Saturday



High 70
Low 54

Sunday



High 69
Low 55

Monday



High 71
Low 52

Attorney named for ACORN probe

The group has been under fire on a number of fronts.

By The Associated Press

WASHINGTON D.C. — The community activist group ACORN said Tuesday it has selected a former Massachusetts attorney general to investigate its housing program and other public service projects after employees were caught on video giving advice to a couple posing as a prostitute and pimp and Congress moved to cut off its federal funding.

Democrat Scott Harshbarger, a lawyer whose specialties include corporate governance, will handle the internal investi-

gation. He said he will "conduct a full and complete independent investigation" and give the group a report on "his findings" and recommendations.

"It's very important that they get this independent assessment," Harshbarger told The Associated Press on Tuesday in an interview at a court symposium in Boston. "I think they understand the need to respond in a way that talks about their institutional integrity, and I will do the best I can to get there."

Video shot by the couple in Brooklyn appears to show ACORN employees advising the pair to lie about the source of their income or to launder the money to get housing assistance.

The Brooklyn video and footage shot by the couple in other cities has been running on the Internet and television news programs for days.

ACORN, short for the Association of Community Organizations for Reform Now, said last week that it was suspending the admission of new clients into its service programs pending the outcome of its investigation and had fired several employees.

Harshbarger will look at ACORN's housing program, tax preparation program and other public service work, such as screening for benefits like food stamps.

Harshbarger said ACORN asked him to conduct a

comprehensive inquiry into issues surrounding the videos and take a more general look at the systems and "management relating to its services."

He said he will determine whether ACORN's problems represent patterns and practices or are isolated cases.

"Many people believe it is isolated and that to some extent, there's been an overreaction based on a couple instances that can occur to any organization," Harshbarger said.

The embarrassing video is the latest of ACORN's problems. Its board forced its founder out last year after his brother embezzled nearly \$1 million from the organization.

Disputed (FROM PAGE ONE)

Springer's home alone that night.

He noted that Ashton referred to neighbor Michelle Kaczmarek in a warrant used to search Szakal's home. Kaczmarek told police she saw a maroon and white pick-up truck in the neighborhood driving erratically the night of the murders. That truck, she told state police, had two people in it.

But Ashton said police later learned it was a different truck. McKay displayed a photograph of Szakal's blue and white truck.

In redirect, Geary contended Szakal's truck could be mistaken as maroon and white when observed at 8:30 at night.

Geary tested his theory when forensic pathologist Dr. Abdulrezak Shakir testified that the suspect was

six inches to two feet away from the victims when he shot them in the face.

Noting that the fatal shot penetrated Howard Springer's brain in an upward direction, Geary asked the doctor to reveal the ex-police chief's height.

Six feet, Shakir said.

During a break, Geary said Szakal is two inches taller than Springer, while Tartt is two inches shorter.

In redirect by Assistant District Attorney Craig McKay, Shakir said it is impossible to tell the height of the shooter, despite the bullet's trajectory.

Ashton earlier testified about phone records showing Szakal called and texted Justin Welch several times during the days following the murder, but with no response.

Welch, of 911 Crest Ave., Apt. 3, Charleroi, is one of the alleged co-conspirators.

"You mad at me or something? Hit me back cuz," Szakal texted at 10:47 p.m. the night after the murders, Ashton testified.

The following night, Szakal purportedly sent a text message to Welch that read, "Are you really coming to chill, or are you mad at me or something?"

On March 7, Szakal purportedly sent a text message that read, "Dude, you're worrying me. Call me."

State police experts acknowledged that Szakal's blood, fingerprints and DNA were never found at the scene and the murder weapon has never been discovered.

Mother (FROM PAGE ONE)

overnight at Henderson's apartment on Sept. 10.

Ford told police that when she woke up the next day, she was sick and needed to use the upstairs bathroom. That's when she saw the children in the bathtub.

Ford told police she went downstairs, where Henderson and Keiauna Davis were talking in the living room. As Ford was leaving, she told Henderson not to forget that her children were in the tub, according to the affidavit.

Ford told police she left, went to another apartment to retrieve medicine and saw Henderson outside talking to Anthony Porter for about 20 minutes, according to the affidavit.

Davis told police she, Henderson and Porter all shared a cigarette outside. Davis told police that about two

minutes after Henderson went back inside, she began screaming for help, according to the affidavit.

During her arraignment before Christner, Henderson wiped away tears as she said she is unemployed, unmarried and has lived at Highland Manor for about four years.

When Christner asked about her education, Henderson said she graduated from Monessen High School with honors and has never been arrested before.

She told Christner she does not use drugs, but has smoked marijuana in the past.

When asked if she needed a public defender, Henderson said she did not, as she has her own attorney, Brian Aston. She said she met with him last week.

Christner asked whether Henderson

realized the magnitude of the charges she is facing.

"Yours is still a tender life. You're still a kid," Christner said.

"The consequences of what you are facing are immeasurable, and will affect you and your family the rest of your life."

Lyons told Christner the baby's death was a "tragic event that will affect everyone involved emotionally."

Following her arraignment, Henderson was transported to the Westmoreland County Prison, where she was held with no bond.

Monessen police Chief Mark Gibson said Westmoreland County Children and Youth Services are involved. Henderson faces a preliminary hearing 9 a.m. Oct. 2 before Magisterial District Judge Joseph Dalfonso in Monessen.

Valley briefs

New Eagle woman nabbed for thefts

A New Eagle woman is accused of participating in a rash of purse thefts at grocery stores in Washington County.

Kimberly Ann Sobczak, 38, is charged with four counts of theft by unlawful taking and criminal conspiracy by South Strabane Township police for allegedly stealing purses from three women shopping at Walmart in Trinity Point and Giant Eagle in Strabane Square.

Sobczak was arraigned Tuesday before Magisterial District Judge Jay Weller in Canonsburg and transported to the Washington County Correctional Facility when she was unable to post \$25,000 bond.

Sobczak and Jason R. Weyandt, 35, of Washington, Pa., also are facing charges for allegedly stealing purses from shoppers in Peters Township and Mt. Lebanon.

State power usage dips in summer

Cooler weather during the summer meant less electricity was used for air conditioning.

The amount of power used in June, July and August was about 7.5 percent lower than a year ago in Pennsylvania and other states served by grid operator PJM Interconnection.

The National Weather Service, meanwhile, said the amount of air conditioning required this summer was about 14 percent less than in summer 2008 and about 7 percent less than normal.

PJM Interconnection's territory includes 51 million people in all or parts of 13 eastern or Midwest states and the District of Columbia.

Panella campaign raises big bucks

Contributions from organized labor and trial lawyers helped give Democrat Jack Panella a big fundraising advantage over Republican rival Joan Orié Melvin in the race for an open seat on Pennsylvania's highest court, according to a review of their latest campaign finance reports Tuesday.

Panella, a Superior Court judge from Bethlehem, reported raising \$1.17 million from the beginning of the year to the Sept. 14 end of the latest reporting period. That compares with the \$418,000 raised by Melvin, a Superior Court judge from Pittsburgh.

Panella reported numerous large contributions from union political committees during the three months covered by the latest reports, which were due Tuesday.

The largest contributions included: \$100,000 from Local 98 of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers in Philadelphia; \$50,000 from the Mid-Atlantic Laborers' Political League in Boston; \$30,550 from Council 13 of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees in Harrisburg; and \$25,000 each from the Metropolitan Regional Council of Carpenters in Philadelphia and the Electrical Workers International Brotherhood in Pittsburgh.

Both candidates benefited from the deep pockets of the Philadelphia Trial Lawyers Association.

Its political action committee — the Committee for a Better Tomorrow — gave Panella \$500,000 and contributed \$100,000 to Melvin's campaign.

Property tax appeals increase in Westmoreland

Records show 4.5% more homeowners appealed their property assessments this year.

By RICH CHOLODOFSKY

For The Valley Independent
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Frank Davis Jr. says Westmoreland County puts too much value on his Penn Township home.

Davis said his two-story ranch home is assessed at \$167,900, about \$15,000 more than it is worth.

He is one of 1,006 county residents who are appealing property assessments.

"I thought my taxes were too high," Davis said. "I'm retired, and every dollar counts."

Property assessment appeals in Westmoreland County increased by about 4.5 percent this year as landowners such as Davis fight in an attempt to save money on their 2010 taxes.

Appeal hearings started Sept. 8 and will be held through the end of October.

For the 2010 tax year, 1,006

appeals were filed, compared with 962 for 2009, according to Assessment Appeals Board figures.

"We're seeing a few more appeals because of the economy. People see the value of their home isn't there anymore," said board member John Wilt. "It's an overall concern. Finances are tight, and people are trying to save money."

Westmoreland property assessments are based on 1972 values, the last year a countywide reassessment was conducted. It is the fifth-oldest base year among Pennsylvania's 67 counties.

Under the base-year system, property assessments in 1972 reflected 100 percent of a parcel's value. By 1982, the state calculated that Westmoreland's assessments represented 47 percent of market value.

This year, a property's assessed value will equal just 20.4 percent of its market value; in other words, a home worth about \$100,000 will have a property assessment of \$20,000.

Local officials concede the county's assessments are skewed.

(See APPEALS, Page 7A)

Jobless benefits may be extended

Unemployed in Pennsylvania, 26 other states would benefit from legislation.

By The Associated Press

With no end in sight to the country's job market woes, the U.S. House has agreed to give Pennsylvania's jobless another 13 weeks of unemployment insurance benefits.

The bill, which passed the House 331-83, approves the extra three months of benefits for those jobless living in 26 other states where unemployment rates topping 8.5 percent.

Similar legislation is pending in the Senate.

The longtime unemployed in states with lower levels of joblessness would not get the extension.

The job market appears to be the last to recover from a recession that officially began in December 2007. Jobless benefits have already been extended to record lengths through federal intervention.

States offer 26 weeks of benefits, with the average payment about \$300 per week. But with federal help, including provisions from the economic stimulus bill, the unemployed in states hardest hit by the recession can receive up to 79 weeks of assistance.



The five Buck brothers who were affiliated in Buck's Garage in Webster, stand beside their Chryslers in 1939. From left, Mike, John, Charles, George and Pete.

Buck still involved in car biz at age 82

Emma Jene LELIK



Bill Buck, of Rostraver Township, was born into the automobile business and at age 82 he's still involved.

As a son of John Buck, one of five brothers who began operating Buck's Garage in Webster in 1939, he says he was always dedicated to the garage.

"Customers were very important to us," he said. "Many a holiday I was out on the road with the wreck truck. We never turned anyone down."

The business was sold in 1987 and is no longer in operation, but Bill still drives for Davies Garage.

Actually, his grandparents, Andrew and Anna Buck, began the garage in

1919 as a family business with their five sons - Michael, John, Peter, Charles and George - all working there.

"At one time, there were 18 Bucks employed at the garage," Bill said.

The garage started in a one-room building and the first expansion began in 1924.

It became a Chrysler deal-

ership in 1934 and received many awards and accolades from the company over the years.

In Bill's collection of memorabilia is a copy of an ad than ran in a local newspaper featuring a "Brand new 1972 Chrysler Four-Door Sedan" for \$3,695 delivered.

The car boasted air conditioning, carpets, power disc brakes, power steering, windshield washers, a 400-cubic-inch engine, torque-flite, solid state radio, wheel covers, a heater and defroster, electric wipers and outside mirrors.

The five brothers are no longer living. Pete, the last one to pass away, was 93 when he died in 2008.

Bill's keen interest in his life's career is enhanced by his amazing memory.

"Many times I spot a former customer and approach him about having worked on his car," he said. "Usually, they're pretty surprised because they don't recognize me."

He described an incident when he and his wife, Jean, and their daughter, Nancy, were vacationing in the state of California 40 years ago.

"I spotted Milan Rodriguez who used to live across from the Zinc Works in Donora," he recalled. "I told him I remembered working on his red Chrysler."

Western Pennsylvania arts leaders fear tax plan

They claim a proposed 6% levy on cultural venues could prove detrimental.

By BOB STILES

For The Valley Independent
bstiles@tribweb.com

Western Pennsylvania theater, museum and zoo officials say a proposed sales tax on admissions to their venues could cause them to lose patrons.

As part of the state budget deal, a 6 percent sales tax on tickets to museums, theaters, zoos and venues for musical or dance performances is being proposed.

Mike Langer said the tax would hurt the Palace Theatre in Greensburg.

"It could only be detrimental to the Palace, given our economy," said Langer, president of the Westmoreland Cultural Trust, which owns the Palace. "The cost of tickets is a big factor. Adding on an additional tax can only hurt attendance in the short term and the long term."

The Palace drew more than 60,000 visitors last year — a record — but finished with a deficit of about \$260,000, Langer said.

The cultural trust finished in the black and absorbed the Palace's loss in order to continue to bring various cultural events to the community, he explained.

Langer said cultural or entertainment venues gen-

erate revenue for surrounding businesses through the patrons the facilities attract.

Betsy Momich, spokeswoman for the Carnegie Museums of Pittsburgh, which includes the Carnegie Museums of Art and Natural History, the Carnegie Science Center and the Andy Warhol Museum, said the sales tax issue adds another financial burden on already-stressed nonprofits.

"It's already very challenging for us in these difficult economic times to attract patrons to our cultural and history-related events and facilities, and this proposal would only place an additional burden on us. We definitely feel it could adversely impact our visits," Momich said.

Barbara Baker, Pittsburgh Zoo president and chief executive officer, said the tax came as a surprise.

"We realize the state has to find a way to raise revenues in some fashion ... but I think adding a zoo and museum tax is totally inappropriate," she said. "Honestly, this proposal has come entirely out of the blue, without any prior discussion, and that is what we find so puzzling."

Curt Scheib, Seton Hill University's director of the division of visual and performing arts, noted the proposed levy comes as the university is preparing per-

formances at its new arts center in downtown Greensburg.

"I think it's a terrible time to be adding this," he said.

Chris Rizk-Orosz, executive director of Stage Right in Greensburg, said she asked the group's accountant to research whether such a tax would apply to nonprofit groups, such as her own, but figures it probably will.

"Theater is truly disposable income, and it's last on the list that gets paid," Rizk-Orosz said. "Adding \$1.50 or so to each ticket, I know, is going to have an impact."

Audiences for Stage Right performances often include the families and friends of the young performers. About 12,000 patrons attend the seven or eight performances held annually.

"Two dollars makes a difference when you're looking at three to four people for a show," Rizk-Orosz said. "That's \$10 (extra) you have to spend."

The Stage Right shows are held at either the Palace or the Greensburg Garden and Civic Center, which is operated by the cultural trust.

Judy Ross, director of marketing for the West-

moreland Jazz Society may be affected, but the museum probably would adjust the \$10 admission fee to include the tax, if necessary.

Several of those contacted wondered why movie theaters and sporting events are not being taxed.

They were less certain what effect the tax might have on fees for memberships.

Carnegie spokeswoman Momich expressed concerns that nonprofits would have to find additional funding for bookkeeping to separate the additional tax receipts from admission fees.

Jim Koontz, curator of the Compass Inn Museum in Laughlintown, said the

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RECORDS

DEATH NOTICES

BERESFORD — Linda B. Beresford, 62, of Victory Hill, Monongahela, on Sunday, Sept. 20. Marshall Marra Funeral Home, Monongahela.*

BLACKA — Stella A. Blacka, 75, of Belle Vernon, on Thursday, Sept. 17. Ferguson Funeral Home Inc. and Cremation Service, Belle Vernon.*

BOYD — William C. Boyd Jr., 74, of Monessen, on Sunday, Sept. 20. James C. Stump Funeral Home Inc., Sweeney Plan/Rostraver Township.

HASCH — Virginia A. "Jean" Hasch, 85, of Monessen, on Tuesday, Sept. 22. Anthony L. Massafra Funeral Home, Donora.*

STRICKLER — Clara B. Strickler, 101, of Arnold City, Belle Vernon, on Monday, Sept. 21. Eley/McCrory Funeral Home Inc., Fayette City.*

PREVIOUS DEATHS:
BETHEM, Darwin*
FRYE, Joanne S.*
FRYE, Stephen M.*
* See death notice

Linda B. Beresford Victory Hill, Monongahela

Linda B. Beresford, 62, of Victory Hill, Monongahela, died Sunday, Sept. 20, 2009, in her daughter's home, surrounded by her family. Born Sept. 14, 1947, in New Eagle, she was the daughter of Margaret G. (Metcalfe) Vlanich and husband Steve of New Eagle and the late James MacFarlane. Linda retired in May 2009 as an insurance agent for Diemerts Insurance in McKeesport. She was a loving Christian wife and mother, with strength and wisdom, and her life was devoted to the nurturing of her family and friends. A graduate of Monongahela High School, she attended the Riverview Baptist Church in New Eagle. Surviving, in addition to her mother, are her husband, Leslie W. "Coby" Beresford whom she married May 31, 2001; a son, Walter R. Kotecki Jr. and his partner Steisy Nissan of Berkeley, Calif.; three daughters and sons-in-law: Loretta L. (Shurgott) and Brian McConnell of New Eagle; Wendy R. and Gary Little of Belle Vernon; and Pamela J. and Michael Lesner of Clouquet, Minn.; two brothers, John M. MacFarlane, and Paul A. and wife Laurie MacFarlane; a sister, Beth E. Wright and Bob Sirella; nine grandchildren: Christopher, Patrick, James, and Molly McConnell, Joshua Little, Brittany, Cassie, Caleb, and Noah Lesner. Preceding her in death was a brother, Daniel J. MacFarlane, who died in April 4, 2007. A memorial service will be held Saturday, Oct. 3, 2009, at 1 p.m. in the Riverview Baptist Church, New Eagle, with the Rev. Bruce Moses



In Memory Of
**Joseph
Gazdik,
Jr.**

Who passed away 2 years ago today, September 23, 2007. We little knew that morning that God was going to call your name. In life we loved you dearly, in death we do the same. It broke our hearts to lose you, you did not go alone; for part of us went with you, the day God called you home. You left us peaceful memories, your love is still our guide; and though we cannot see you, you are always at our side. Our family chain is broken, and nothing seems the same; but as God calls us one by one, the chain will link again.

We sadly miss you and always love you. Your son Joshua and Jackie

In Memory Of Robert V. Jones

In loving memory of my beloved father, Robert V. Jones, who passed away 1 year on September 20, 2008.

My father was very loving and caring. He had a sense of humor. He loved his wife of 65 years, Helen. I miss them both each day, but we will meet our loved ones in Heaven, with God. He was Cement City Donora proud! Loved Russell Slover Candies, cutting up fresh apples for his grandkids and fresh cheese from Greco's. He loved to play darts at church, and his best buddies were Innes Dickie, Richie Axton, Carl Wapiennik and Tom Smedley "The Candy Man." They all called my dad, "Bobby." He was the Pizzelle maker at Christmas! Helped cook Easter breakfast at the church! Go Steelers, loved the game of golf, Stan! The Man was his favorite baseball player. Had a unique way of eating a candy cane. Took me on my first rollercoaster ride, The Thunderbolt, when I was twelve! Really good traffic director, gotta watch those cars comin' up and down Chestnut St. Raised 3 children, 7 grandkids and 2 great-grandchildren. But the one thing I remember is his love for butter pecan ice cream. I miss and love you, take care of Lady for me.

Christy-Jones Mallesky

officiating. In lieu of flowers contributions can be made to the Riverview Baptist Church, Main Street, New Eagle, Pa., 15067, or to the charity of Linda's choice, healthwellfoundation.org. The MARSHALL MARRA FUNERAL HOME, 216 Chess St., Monongahela (724-258-6767) is in charge of the arrangements.

Family and friends are invited to sign the online guest book at www.valleyindependent.com.

Stella A. Blacka Belle Vernon

Stella A. Blacka, 75, of Belle Vernon, passed away Thursday, Sept. 17, 2009, in McMurray Hills Manor, McMurray. A daughter of the late George and Josephine Ninchak, she was born in North Charleroi on Sept. 26, 1933. She was a resident of Belle Vernon for most of her adult life. Mrs. Blacka had previously been employed as a chemistry teacher for Belle Vernon Area High School and was a nurse's assistant at McMurray Hills Manor. Survivors include a son, Allan Wells Blacka Jr. of McMurray. There will be no public viewing. Interment will be in Grandview Cemetery, Monessen. The FERGUSON FUNERAL HOME AND CREMATORY INC., 724-929-5300, 700 Broad Ave., Belle Vernon, is handling arrangements. www.FergusonFuneralHomeAndCrematory.com

Family and friends are invited to sign the online guest book at www.valleyindependent.com.

Darwin "Shag" Bethem

Twilight Borough
Darwin "Shag" Bethem, 77, of Twilight Borough, died Monday, Sept. 21, 2009. He was born Nov. 4, 1931, in Charleroi, a son of the late Jules and Catherine Tatar Bethem. Mr. Bethem was a member of Christ Lutheran Church, of Charleroi, the church choir, church council, a former Twilight Borough Council member of Twilight and was a life member and former chief of the Belle Vernon Fire Department. Mr. Bethem was a co-owner of the Bethem Machine Shop Inc. in Belle Vernon. Mr. Bethem played the organ throughout the Mon Valley and was a member of the trio group called the "Millionaires." He is survived by his wife, Lois Zimmerman Bethem; two sons, Keith G. Bethem, of Twilight, and Kevin J. Bethem and his wife, Brenda, of Belle Vernon; three daughters, Kathleen Cole, of Charleroi, Kris Hervet and her husband, Anthony, of Bethel Park, and Karen Kostelac, of North Charleroi; one brother, Gordon E. Bethem and his wife, Connie, of Belle Vernon; one sister, Norma Herst and her husband, David, of Georgia; two sisters-in-law, Mildred Bethem and Janice Zimmerman, both of Belle Vernon; four grandchildren, Danielle Bryan and her husband, SSgt. Joseph Bryan, Jessica Leska, Jennifer Kostelac and Leslie Cole; three great-

Valley Grapevine deadline set

Items for Valley Grapevine should be submitted at least five publishing days prior to scheduled meetings or events.

grandchildren, Dylan Gaskill and Mikhayla and Shelby Bryan. In addition to his parents, Mr. Bethem was preceded in death by three brothers, Leonard, Curtis and Ronald Bethem and one sister, Elaine Vinkney. Friends will be received 2 to 4 and 7 to 9 p.m. Wednesday in the S C H R O C K - H O G A N FUNERAL HOME AND CREMATION SERVICES INC., 226 Fallowfield Ave., Charleroi. Funeral services will be 11 a.m. Thursday in the funeral home, with Pastor Kenneth Thompson officiating. Condolences are being accepted for the family at www.schrock-hogan.com.

Family and friends are invited to sign the online guest book at www.valleyindependent.com.

Virginia A. "Jean" Hasch Monessen

Virginia A. "Jean" Hasch, 85, of Monessen, died on Tuesday, Sept. 22, 2009, at Washington County Health Center in Washington, Pa. She was born Aug. 2, 1924, in Donora, the daughter of the late Vincent and Margaret LaMendola Cecconi. She was a member of Our Lady of the Valley Parish in Donora. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by two sisters, Amelia Cecconi and Louise Ostoich. Survivors include her husband of 62 years, Emil P. Hasch; a sister, Frances Grison of Maryland; and many nieces and nephews. Friends will be received from 2 to 4 and 7 to 9 p.m. on Thursday, Sept. 24, at the ANTHONY L. MASSAFRA FUNERAL HOME, 40 Second St. Ext., Donora, (724) 379-6900, where prayers will be recited on Friday, Sept. 25, at 9:30 a.m., followed by a Mass of Christian Burial at 10 a.m. at Our Lady of the Valley Parish, St. Philip Neri Church, Donora, with the Rev. Father Pierre M. Falkenhan as celebrant. Entombment will follow in Mon Valley Memorial Park, Donora.

Family and friends are invited to sign the online guest book at www.valleyindependent.com.

Clara B. Strickler Arnold City, Belle Vernon

Clara B. Strickler, 101, of Arnold City, Belle Vernon, died Monday, Sept. 21, 2009, in Mon Valley Hospital Inc., Carroll Township. She was born March 17, 1908, in Lower Tyrone Township, a daughter of the late Albert Thompson and Mamie Keffer Thompson. She was a member of the Fundamental Bible Church, Perryopolis. Surviving are two sons, William Strickler of Belle Vernon and James Strickler of Vanderbilt; three daughters, Betty Lerch of Vanderbilt, Anna Lee Fike of Mentor, Ohio, and Darlene Diethorn of Belle Vernon; 24 grandchildren and many numerous great-grandchildren and great-great-grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her husband, William Strickler; a son, Bud

Strickler; and daughter, Shirley Crouch. Friends will be received in the E L E Y / M C C R O R Y FUNERAL HOME INC., 334 Main St., Fayette City, on Thursday from 2 to 4 and 7 to 9 p.m. Additional viewing will take place Friday, Sept. 25, at the Fundamental Bible Church, Perryopolis, from 10 to 11 a.m., the hour of services, with Pastor Daniel Gates officiating. Interment will follow in the Bowman-Flatwoods Cemetery, Vanderbilt. www.eleymccroryfuneralhome.com

Family and friends are invited to sign the online guest book at www.valleyindependent.com.

Joanne Sandra Frye

Fallowfield Township
Joanne Sandra Frye, 56, of Fallowfield Township, died Sunday, Sept. 20, 2009, in the Monongahela Valley Hospital. She was born April 5, 1953, in Guam, Mariana's Islands (on the U.S. Naval Base), a daughter of Marion Turner Frye, who survives and resides in Fallowfield Township, and the late Marvin Frye, who died April 27, 2001. Joanne graduated from Charleroi High School, class of 1971. She attended Boca Raton College in Florida, where she received her certification as a respiratory technician. She continued her education through San Diego University to become a licensed respiratory care practitioner. She was currently employed for more than 30 years at the Monongahela Valley Hospital as a respiratory therapist. She was a member of the United Methodist Church, the American Legion Auxiliary Post 22 and the Legion Club, all of Charleroi, and the Clan Anderson Society (through her Scottish heritage). Joanne enjoyed spending her time helping her friends, her dog Laddie, her cats, Piper, CiCi, JoJo, Angel and Wiskers, and horses, Black Jack and Chief Blue. She was a true animal enthusiast who loved finding homes for stray and unwanted animals through Pet Search in Washington. Joanne would do anything for you and was always there to lend a helping hand. Special thanks to all her friends and neighbors, especially Cheryl McGavitt. In addition to her loving mother, she is survived by her sister, Judy Frye Nolde and husband Donald, of Keedysville, Md.; two nieces whom she loved with all her heart, Devin Lee and Cailin Victoria Nolde of Keedysville, Md.; and devoted friend, Nancy Egri, of Elizabeth. In addition to her father, she was preceded in death by her brother, Stephen M. Frye, who died unexpectedly on Sept. 17, 2009. Friends will be received 2 to 4 and 7 to 9 p.m. Friday in the FRYE FUNERAL HOME INC., 427 W. Main St., Monongahela, where services will be held 11 a.m. Saturday, with the Rev. Michael Milinovich officiating. Memorial contributions may be made to the Fallen Timber Humane

Society, 1680 Fallen Timber Road, Elizabeth, PA, 15037. To leave an online condolence, visit www.fryefuneralhome.com.

Family and friends are invited to sign the online guest book at www.valleyindependent.com.

Stephen M. Frye Fallowfield Township

Stephen M. Frye, 58, of Fallowfield Township, died unexpectedly Thursday, Sept. 17, 2009, in the Monongahela Valley Hospital. He was born Jan. 29, 1951, in Vallejo, Calif., (on the US Naval Base), a son of Marion Turner Frye, who survives and resides in Fallowfield Township, and the late Marvin Frye, who died April 27, 2001. Steve graduated from Charleroi High School, class of 1969. He went on to attend Brooks Institute of Photography in Santa Barbara, Calif. and then returned to Pennsylvania to graduate from Point Park College with a bachelor's degree in science. Steve also graduated from the Art Institute of Pittsburgh, where he earned a bachelor's of art degree. Immediately after graduation, Steve worked as a professor at the Art Institute until his retirement. After he retired, Steve lived a simple life, and loved to volunteer his time. He was active in volunteering as a EMT, constable for voter registration, tour guide at Bushy Run Park, 911 communications, Fallowfield Township Volunteer Fire Dept., and the Adoption of the Position Program, Gettysburg National Military Park. Steve at one time was treasurer and president of the Sons of the Confederate Veterans in the Pittsburgh area and a member of the United Methodist Church in Charleroi. Steve's real love was motorcycles, his dogs: Jack and Joie, and going to Gettysburg with his best friend, Bill Baciak. Steve was a loving son, a caring brother and a friend to all. Thanks to the Sunoco crew, his biker buddies for the good times, his great neighbors and especially Dick Russell and Lotte. In addition to his loving mother, he is survived by two sisters, Joanne Frye, of Fallowfield Township, who joined him in death three days later, and Judy Frye Nolde and husband Donald, of Keedysville, Md.; two nieces, Devin Lee and Cailin Victoria Nolde, of Keedysville, Md. Friends will be received 2 to 4 and 7 to 9 p.m. Friday in the FRYE FUNERAL HOME INC., 427 W. Main St., Monongahela, where services will be 11 a.m. Saturday, with the Rev. Michael Milinovich officiating. Memorial contributions may be made to: The Adoption of the Position Program, Gettysburg National Military Park, 405 Taneytown Road, Gettysburg, PA, 17325. To leave an online condolence, visit www.fryefuneralhome.com.

Family and friends are invited to sign the online guest book at www.valleyindependent.com.

MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT COURT

Charles Christner, West Newton

The following cases were heard Monday at Magisterial District Judge Charles Christner's office in West Newton:

■ Charges of simple assault and harassment against Lonnie M. Houseman, 32, of 241 Porter Road, Belle Vernon, were dismissed because the victim did not testify. Houseman was charged after an alleged incident Aug. 25 at 241 Porter Road in Rostraver Township.

■ Danial A. Dimond, 27, of 2208 E. Carson St., Apt. 2, Pittsburgh, waived the right to a preliminary hearing. Dimond was charged with driving under the influence and a traffic violation after an incident July 9 at the 100 block of Robertson Street and 110 W. Main St. in West Newton.

■ Roger Bryan, 44, of 715 Pier St., Smithton, waived the right to a preliminary hearing. Bryan was charged with driving under the influence and traffic violations after an incident July 12 at the 100 block of Robertson Street and the 500 block of West Main Street in West Newton.

■ Charges of simple assault and harassment against Alice Marie Horrell, 37, of 24 Mulberry St., Belle Vernon, were dismissed because the victim failed to testify. Horrell was charged after an incident Sept. 6 at 531 Speer St. in North Belle Vernon.

■ Charges of open lewdness and disorderly conduct against Robert Allen Opat, 42, of 116 N. Water St., Apt. 1, West Newton, were withdrawn by the prosecution. Opat was charged after an incident Aug. 4 at 134 Vine St. in West Newton.

■ A bad checks charge against Shelly Yanko, no age listed, of 1726 Kennedy St., Buena Vista, was dismissed because Yanko paid restitution. Yanko was charged in relation to a check written Jan. 9.

POLICE LOG

California

■ Jay Martin Kass, 19, and Eric Steven Kincaid, 19, both of Pittsburgh, were charged with false alarms to agencies of public safety, recklessly endangering another person and underage drinking after allegedly setting off the fire alarms at Vulcan Village 11:27 p.m. Monday, police said.

■ Ryan Lee Carney, 20, of Pittsburgh, was cited by the for public drunkenness, disorderly conduct and underage drinking after an incident that occurred 4:30 a.m. Monday at Vulcan Village and at the police station, police said.

■ Jacob A. Kerr, 22, of Bethel Park, was cited for public drunkenness after an incident that occurred 3:37 a.m. Saturday at the Kwik Fill, police said.

Monessen

■ Charles Smith, 24, of Wilkes-Barre, was picked up 3:47 p.m. Tuesday at 509 Fourth St. on active warrants from Wilkes-Barre and Washington Township, police said. He was taken to the Fayette County Jail.

■ Washington County juvenile probation officers picked up a 17-year-old Monessen male 10:13 a.m. Tuesday at 464 Reed Ave. on numerous charges and probation violations, police said. He was taken to the Washington County Juvenile Detention Center.

■ A 16-year-old Monessen female juvenile was charged with harassment 1:25 p.m. Saturday after an incident that took place on the 600 block of Knox Avenue, police said.

First western Pa. swine flu death reported

The other 12 deaths have been in eastern Pennsylvania.

HARRISBURG — A 27-year-old man is western Pennsylvania's first confirmed H1N1 swine flu death, state officials said today.

The Pennsylvania Department of Health is keeping the man's identity private and would not say when he died or if he was hospitalized.

"He did have underlying health concerns," said

spokeswoman Holli Senior. She could not provide further details on what those health concerns were.

Asthma, diabetes linked to obesity and cardiovascular disease are among the health conditions that can make people more susceptible to the flu, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Last week, the Allegheny County Health Department and former county coroner Cyril Wecht began investi-

gating the death of Deborah Spangler, 45, of Butler County for the possibility of a swine flu link. The Department of Health has not yet confirmed if her death was the result of the new flu virus.

There have been 13 swine flu deaths in Pennsylvania. Except for the Allegheny County death, all have been in the eastern part of the state.

At least 364 people nationwide have died of swine flu, according to the CDC.

NEWS

TODAY IN HISTORY

SEPTEMBER 23

Today is Wednesday, Sept. 23, the 266th day of 2009. There are 99 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight

On Sept. 23, 1952, Sen. Richard M. Nixon, R-Calif., facing calls to withdraw as Dwight D. Eisenhower's running mate, went on television to defend himself against allegations of improper campaign fundraising. The address, which came to be known as the "Checkers" speech because of Nixon's on-air reference to a dog given to his family as a gift, proved highly successful in rallying public support for keeping Nixon on the GOP ticket.

On this date:

■ In 1779, during the Revolutionary War, the American warship Bonhomme Richard, commanded by John Paul Jones, defeated the HMS Serapis in battle.

■ In 1780, British spy John Andre was captured along with papers revealing Benedict Arnold's plot to surrender West Point to the British.

■ In 1806, the Lewis and Clark expedition returned to St. Louis more than two years after setting out for the Pacific Northwest.

■ In 1846, Neptune was identified as a planet by German astronomer Johann Gottfried Galle.

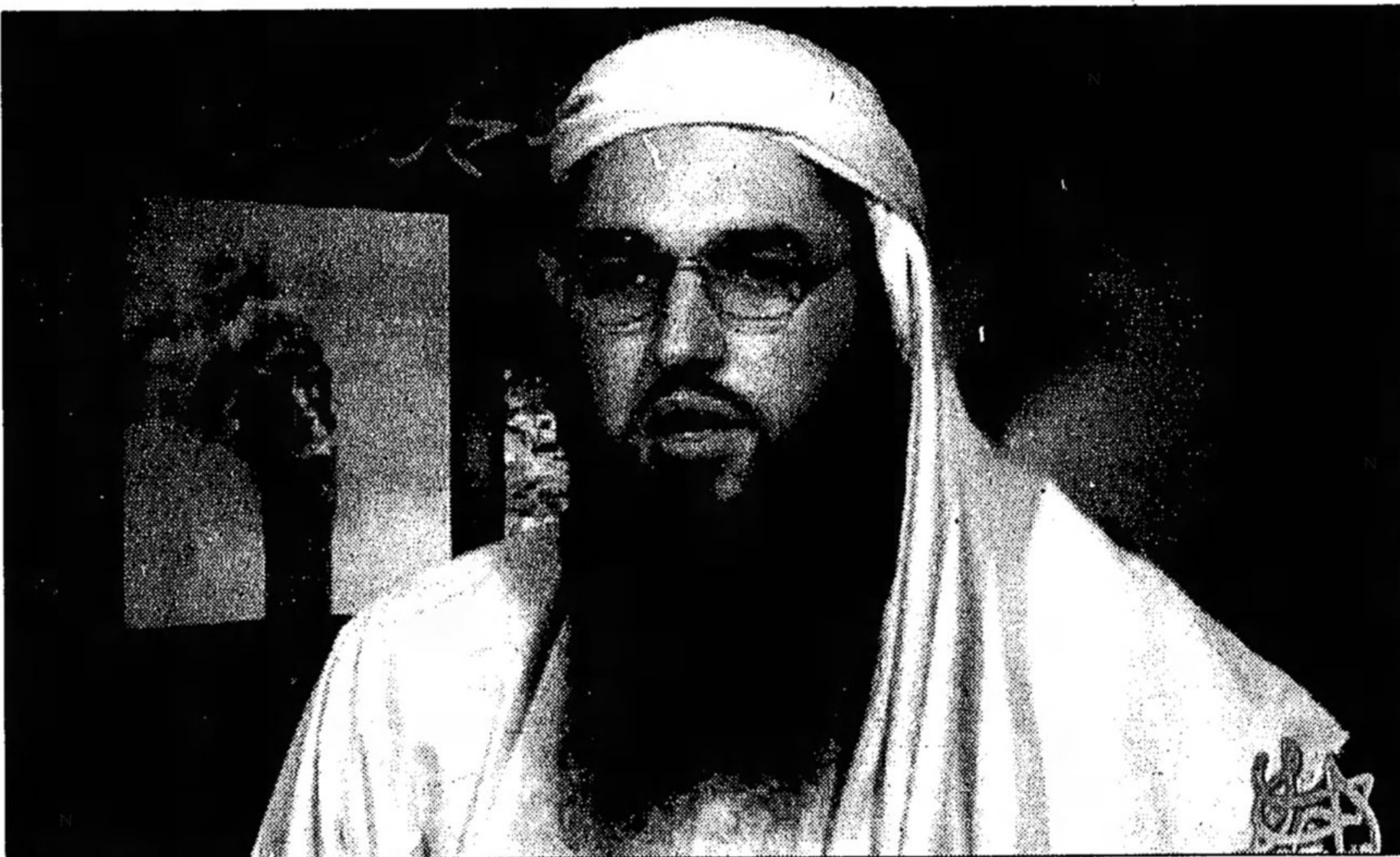
■ In 1949, President Harry S. Truman announced there was evidence the Soviet Union had recently conducted a nuclear test explosion. (The test had been carried out on Aug. 29, 1949.)

■ In 1957, nine black students who had entered Little Rock Central High School in Arkansas were forced to withdraw because of a white mob outside.

■ **Ten years ago:** President Bill Clinton vetoed the Republicans' \$792 billion tax cut bill, calling it "too big, too bloated." The Mars Climate Observer apparently burned up as it was about to go into orbit around the Red Planet.

■ **Five years ago:** President George W. Bush denied painting too rosy a picture about Iraq, and said he would consider sending more troops if asked; Iraq's interim leader, Ayad Allawi, standing with Bush in the White House Rose Garden, said additional troops weren't needed.

■ **One year ago:** Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad accused what he called "a few bullying powers" of trying to thwart his country's peaceful nuclear program and declared in a speech before the U.N. General Assembly that "the American empire" was nearing collapse.



This image provided by IntelCenter shows Adam Gadahn, also known as Azzam al-Amriki, an American who grew up in southern California, converted to Islam and joined al-Qaida speaking in a new 106-minute long video released Tuesday. The Arabic-language video, titled "The West and the Dark Tunnel," is part of a series of messages by the organization marking the eighth anniversary of the Sept. 11 attacks.

Stadiums, hotels warned to watch for terrorists

An investigation and warnings have prompted officials nationwide to step up patrols.

By DEVLIN BARRETT and EILEEN SULLIVAN

Associated Press Writers

WASHINGTON — Counterterrorism officials have issued security bulletins to police around the nation about terrorists' desire to attack stadiums, entertainment complexes and hotels — the latest in a flurry of such internal warnings as investigators chase a possible bomb plot in Denver and New York.

In the two bulletins — sent to police departments Monday and obtained by The Associated Press — officials said they know of no specific plots against such sites, but urged law enforcement and private companies to be vigilant. These two bulletins followed on the heels of a similar warning about the vulnerabilities of mass transit systems.

The bulletin on stadiums notes that an al-Qaida training manual specifically lists "blasting and destroying the places of amusement, immorality, and sin... and attacking vital economic centers" as desired targets of the global terror network.

A joint statement from DHS and FBI said while the agencies "have no information regarding the timing, location or target of any planned attack, we believe it is prudent to raise the security awareness of our local law enforcement

partners regarding the targets and tactics of previous terrorist activity."

Officials noted the law enforcement bulletins are not intended for the public. Bulletins — particularly about hotels as possible targets — are common, and often don't make news. However, a half-dozen alerts issued in the last week have received increased attention amid the ongoing investigations in New York and Denver. The first of these, about hydrogen peroxide-based explosives, specifically referred to the investigation in New York.

Separately, law enforcement officials said a Colorado man may have been planning with others to detonate backpack bombs on New York City trains in a terrorism plot similar to past attacks on London's and Madrid's mass-transit systems.

The investigation and the earlier warning about mass transit system have already prompted officials around the nation to step up patrols.

New York City's transit agency said Tuesday it increased police presence around the city in light of the ongoing probe and the law enforcement notices.

Extra officers — with helmets, bulletproof vests, large rifles and dogs — were seen Tuesday morning at spots like Grand Central Terminal in midtown Manhattan. The U.N.'s General Assembly, with leaders from around the world and President Barack Obama, is several blocks

away.

Two law enforcement officials speaking on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to discuss details of the investigation told The Associated Press late Monday that more than a half-dozen individuals were being scrutinized in the alleged plot.

In a statement, the FBI says that "several individuals in the United States, Pakistan and elsewhere" are being investigated.

In New York, law enforcement officials said that there were other potential suspects under scrutiny, but refused to say how many. Police Commissioner Raymond Kelly cautioned that the probe was still in its early stages, adding: "There's a lot more work to be done."

Investigators say Najibullah Zazi, a 24-year-old Afghanistan-born immigrant who is a shuttle van driver at the Denver airport, played a direct role in the terror plot that unraveled after an overnight 1,600-mile trip from Denver to New York City around the anniversary of the Sept. 11 attacks. He made his first court appearance Monday and remains behind bars.

THE WORLD BRIEFLY

Obama's approach to be toasted, tested

NEW YORK (AP) — President Barack Obama's vision of international diplomacy is about to get the scrutiny of the world, as his promise of a new day is slamming into conflicts of old.

Obama today gives his first speech to the United Nations General Assembly, a forum like none other for a leader wishing to wash away any lasting images of U.S. unilateralism.

The president is expected to center on halting the spread of nuclear weapons, combatting global warming, promoting sound economies and standing up for universal values and freedoms.

His message of global cooperation, a cornerstone of his presidential campaign and now his foreign policy, is sure to be embraced by an organization that exists on that very premise.

But Obama's words will also be closely picked apart: which challenges he names as priorities in his first time on this stage, how firmly he singles out nations deemed to be dangers and what he will demand of nations rich and poor.

Deposed Honduran leader hunkers down

TEGUCIGALPA, Honduras (AP) — Diplomats and activists streamed out of the increasingly isolated Brazilian Embassy in Honduras where ousted President Manuel Zelaya holed up with a shrinking core of supporters and relatives, prompting Brazil to urge the U.N. Security Council to guarantee the compound's safety.

Zelaya's backers ventured out at several points in Honduras' capital to skirmish with police, after hundreds of their colleagues were routed by baton-

wielding soldiers from the street in front of the embassy and police roadblocks sealed off the mission building Tuesday. Authorities denied local media reports that three people died in the confrontation.

The entire country was largely shut down, with almost no cars or pedestrians in the streets and few businesses open under a nearly round-the-clock curfew decreed by the interim government that ousted Zelaya in June. It accused Zelaya of sneaking back into the country Monday to create disturbances and disrupt the Nov. 29 election scheduled to pick his successor.

Fed likely to leave rates at record-low

WASHINGTON (AP) — Nurturing a nascent recovery, Federal Reserve policymakers are sure to leave a key interest rate at a record low and probably will keep other economic supports in place.

Fed Chairman Ben Bernanke and his colleagues are slated to wrap up a two-day meeting Wednesday afternoon, when they are expected to announce that the recession is likely over and that the nation's economic and financial climate is improving. But they'll also warn that rising unemployment, and still hard-to-get-credit for many people and companies, will make for a plodding rebound.

"We're kind of in an economic purgatory right now. We're in a recovery but it won't feel like one to Main Street," said Stuart Hoffman, chief economist at PNC Financial Services Group. "There's still a lot for the Fed to do to foster a lasting economic recovery." Bernanke last week said the recession is "very likely over," his most optimistic assessment in months.

'PENNSYLVANIA CASH 5'

One player hits 'Cash 5' jackpot

HARRISBURG, Pa. (AP) — One player matched all five winning numbers drawn in Tuesday's "Pennsylvania Cash 5" game and will collect a jackpot worth \$353,282.

Lottery officials said 105 players matched four numbers and won \$271.50 each; 4,031 players matched three numbers and won \$11.50 each; and 50,334 players matched two numbers and won \$1 each.

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Valley Lottery Results

PENNSYLVANIA DAILY NUMBERS
TUESDAY, September 22, 2009
DAY PICK 3: 1-8-8
NIGHT PICK 3: 6-9-7
DAY PICK BIG 4: 0-9-0-6
NIGHT PICK BIG 4: 5-4-7-0
DAY QUINTO: 0-6-2-9-2
NIGHT QUINTO: 4-0-5-0-8
TREASURE HUNT: 4-5-11-14-21
CASH 5: 3-10-25-35-37
SUPER 7: 6-11-14-16-21-31
34-49-57-58-75

OHIO DAILY NUMBERS
TUESDAY, September 22, 2009
DAY PICK 3: 2-3-0
NIGHT PICK 3: 4-7-6
DAY PICK 4: 2-4-2-2
NIGHT PICK 4: 8-2-6-3
ROLLING CASH 5: 18-22-24-26-39

WEST VIRGINIA DAILY NUMBERS
TUESDAY, September 22, 2009
DAILY 3: 7-7-2
DAILY 4: 8-8-2-1
CASH 25: 7-9-11-15-16-25

Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of winning numbers and prize payouts. In the event of a discrepancy, the official and certified files maintained by the Pennsylvania Lottery's Security Office shall prevail.

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FRESH CABBAGE **19¢** LB.

FRESH BANANAS **3\$1** lbs for

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OUR OPINION

Nutty behavior doomed ACORN

THE SUDDEN CHANGE of heart regarding ACORN among Democrats in Washington, D.C., is indubitably welcome. So what took so long?

Apparently, they were awaiting hidden-camera videos showing ACORN workers advising a conservative filmmaker and a journalist who posed as a pimp and a prostitute on how to avoid tax, immigration and police scrutiny. Once those videos hit YouTube, Democrats' longtime support of ACORN quickly crumbled.

Last week, they joined Republicans in overwhelming votes in the House to end all federal funding for ACORN and in the Senate to block 2010 housing funding for ACORN. And the Obama administration's Census Bureau got in on the act, canceling plans to work with ACORN on the 2010 head count.

Even the Justice Department's independent inspector general is getting in on the act. The IG is reviewing grants to the liberal activists. ACORN, by the way, has stopped taking new clients and is conducting an internal audit, a probe that one should reasonably consider to be suspect.

It remains to be seen if Democrats' newfound opposition to ACORN is more than a political convenience and contrivance of the moment. But that trend does encourage anyone opposed to voter registration fraud and other improprieties in which ACORN is alleged to have engaged.

ANOTHER VIEW

The (Doylestown) Intelligencer on tax burdens:

Much has been written and spoken about the so-called state employees pension bubble, the financial catastrophe looming just a couple of years from now and brought about by a combination of sour investments, an untimely decision to increase retirement benefits and years of underfunding pension contributions on the local level.

Concern about a possible property tax explosion in 2012 to help fund the Public School Employees Retirement System is very real and very justified. Taxes could go through the roof and would likely stay there. While everyone will be affected, senior citizens and others on fixed incomes stand to take the hardest hit.

Worse than the pension bubble itself, however, is the tendency for taxing bodies to often view their own revenue wish list in a vacuum and fail to consider the cumulative impact a host of higher taxes can have on already-beleaguered taxpayers.

A senior citizen caller reminded us of this the other day when he ran down a short list of tax obligations facing the typical citizen and how, as each individual tax gets bigger, the overall tax burden becomes heavier and heavier.

For example, in addition to the bill coming due to fund the pensions, there are the millions and millions various school districts are spending on, among other things, fat labor contracts, new school construction and maintenance and repairs on existing schools. Add to that the costs of whatever kind of health care reform comes out of Washington. Then throw in the tab for the budget that Pennsylvania lawmakers will adopt one of these days.

One way or the other, the taxpayer will get stuck with all of this spending, on top of everyday living expenses for things like food, clothing and shelter. Trouble is, the taxpayer is already struggling. There is only so much money in most people's pockets. When it's gone, it's — well, the politicians crying poor-mouth don't seem to care. They continue to want more, predicting dire consequences for those most in need if their demands aren't met.

The fact is, government's insatiable demand only guarantees that increasing numbers of people are going to fall into the "most in need category," and that those lucky enough to keep their heads above water will just barely do so. We have to admire any politician or candidate who insists that government at all levels must learn to live within its means.

How to reach us

The Valley Independent welcomes the input of our readers. Letters, e-mails and faxes must be signed and should include an address and daytime telephone number so the content of the message can be verified. (Phone numbers will not be published.)

Send your comments:

— By mail to Your Opinion, *The Valley Independent*, Eastgate 19, Monessen, Pa. 15062.

— By e-mail to valleyletters@tribweb.com

— By fax to (724) 684-2603.

All messages are subject to editing for clarification, brevity and libel. Messages should be kept to 300 words. (No poetry, please.) While letters usually are published in order of submission, those concerning timely local issues are given priority.

Never mind on Afghanistan

Rich LOWRY



At the height of their anti-Iraq War fever, Democrats accused President George W. Bush of cooking up the war for political reasons. It must have been their guilty consciences speaking.

Democrats are the party of extreme situational politics on national security. Almost every major Democrat with presidential aspirations voted to authorize the Iraq War, then turned on it. As the Iraq War spiraled downward, many Democrats called for more troops, then resisted the surge. It has practically been mandatory for all good, card-carrying Democrats to trumpet the centrality of the Afghan War since 2003, using it as a rhetorical club to attack President Bush's focus on Iraq. Now that it is crunch time in Afghanistan, they've gone from resolute to flaccid.

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi doesn't "think there's a great deal of support for sending more troops." Once upon a time, she insisted, "We need to finish the job." Carl Levin, the chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee, is touting an implausible plan to train the Afghan army without any more American troops. For-

gotten are the days when he browbeat Secretary of Defense Robert Gates for a failure to provide "the kind of commitment of forces or resources that our commanders on the ground are asking us for." And John Kerry, who used to be as gung-ho as John Wayne in "The Green Berets," now sounds ready to revert to his usual martial role of leading the political charge toward defeat.

The Democratic vote that counts most is that of President Barack Obama, who looks as wobbly as the old Tacoma Narrows Bridge. It's understandable that he'd want to deliberate carefully about a decision to send as many as 45,000 more troops. But on his Sunday show marathon, Obama questioned the premises of the war. He complained of "mission creep" in Afghanistan, and claimed, "I wanted to narrow it."

If so, this is the only news from his mind-numbing

round of interviews. In August, he told the Veterans of Foreign Wars that Afghanistan is "a war of necessity," because "if left unchecked, the Taliban insurgency will mean an even larger safe haven from which al-Qaida would plot to kill more Americans." In March, he announced "a comprehensive, new strategy for Afghanistan and Pakistan." He called for reversing the Taliban's gains by taking the fight to the insurgents, training the Afghan security forces and promoting a better Afghan government. If the mission "creeped," he did it.

If Obama never meant what he said about Afghanistan — or has changed his mind — this is the time to say it. Someone in the Pentagon, clearly irked by Obama's indecisiveness, leaked commanding Gen. Stanley McChrystal's new 66-page assessment of the war to Bob Woodward. The memo says that without a rapid injection of more troops to execute a counterinsurgency mission focused on population security, the war "will likely result in failure."

Obama has had only one meeting of his national security advisers to discuss the memo, even though it

was sent on Aug. 30. But, hey, he has a busy media schedule. The White House has kept a lid on Gen. McChrystal lest he make a nuisance of himself by arguing the case for winning the war publicly. There are even signs that McChrystal — Obama's handpicked general — could yet experience the underside of a bus. In *The Washington Post*, an anonymous Obama official rapped McChrystal for getting out ahead of Obama by placing such emphasis on population security. The official must be unaware of the White House white paper released in March calling for integrating "population security with building effective local governance and economic development."

As the McChrystal memo makes clear, the task in Afghanistan is hideously complex, made all the more difficult by the government's pervasive corruption (symbolized by the recent fraud-plagued elections). Nonetheless, McChrystal believes that "success is still achievable."

Unless, of course, Obama and his fellow Democrats are about to say "never mind" to their core foreign-policy commitment of the post-9/11 era.



When did opposition become 'racism'?

Diana WEST



South Carolina Republican Rep. Joe Wilson may have unexpectedly ignited an explosion of race rhetoric with two words in the House chamber — "You lie" — but I can snuff it out with two words in a newspaper — "Jimmy Carter."

The former president threw rhetorical kerosene on the political flames this week when he twice advanced the lowdown argument that political opposition to Barack Obama — in town halls, faltering presidential poll numbers, the colossal anti-Obama demonstration in Washington — boils down to "racism."

The allegation is contemptible but, particularly in the wake of the Wilson story, has been pushed by journalists on the Left and Democratic U.S. Representatives mainly from the Black Congressional Caucus. Evidence of racism is so thin, though, the racismists must invent lurid details. The New York Times' Maureen Dowd writes that when she heard Wilson say "You lie" she felt as if, "fair or not," she heard him say: "You lie, boy! Georgia Democrat Rep. Hank Johnson draws a straight line from Wilson's remark to 'folks putting on white hoods and white uniforms again and riding

through the countryside intimidating people." Yeah. En route to Bellevue.

It would almost be funny if it weren't so grotesque. Of course, Jimmy Carter, who last appeared in this column after he laid red roses on the grave of Yasir Arafat before resuming his pursuit of face-time with Hamas terrorists, is no stranger to grotesque. Certainly after Osama bin Laden this week actually endorsed Carter's anti-Israel book, "Palestine: Peace not Apartheid," the former president needed a good, unctuous wallow in sanctimony to deflect our attention from his new fan. But Carter went too far — even for him.

"I think an overwhelming portion of the intensely demonstrated animosity toward President Barack Obama is based on the fact that he is a black man," Carter told NBC. There exists the belief "among many white people, not just in the South, but around the country," he continued, "that African-Americans

are not qualified to lead this great country. It's an abominable circumstance, and grieves me and concerns me very deeply."

What's "abominable" here is the spectacle of a former president attempting to asphyxiate democratic debate with the stranglehold charge of "racism."

It won't work. As promised above, I can stop it by mentioning the man's name. Fact is, the Americans who are now apoplectic about President Obama were once apoplectic about Jimmy Carter, and, later, Bill Clinton. (Some of us still are.) And please — no American president, not even Richard Nixon, has ever been reviled to the gruesomely mock-violent degree that George W. Bush was. "Racism" had nothing to do with any of it.

In other words, it is not "racism" we are seeing breaking out around the country, it is political opposition. The Left is responding to vital signs on the Right, a stirring in the ashes of eight disorienting Bush years, that indicate there is a political fight to be had over the direction of this country.

And the best thing that Joe Wilson did for that fight was to stop apologizing while he was ahead.

But it is for this reason —

his refusal to submit to House Democrat pressure to participate in a show-trial-style mea culpa circus after the president accepted his personal apology — that the public pillorying continues.

And is it ever ugly. Under cover of "racism" charges, the assault on the last unprotected victim group in America is rejoined. That victim, of course, is the white male. Or, as his politically correct tormentors like to taunt him repeatedly, "middle-aged white guys." These are certainly one of Maureen Dowd's favorite targets — "white Republican men afraid of extinction," she calls them with the sadistic complacency of one who plays to society's approved prejudices. "Just it gives off a strange vibe," says MSNBC's David Shuster about the "older white men, all Republicans, sitting there" in Congress.

Wonder what Shuster says about the "older white men" at the Continental Congress? Or what Dowd says about such "middle-aged white guys" as Leonardo da Vinci, Louis Pasteur, Robert Browning, Thomas Edison and Clark Gable?

As the academic leftists have reeducated us to believe, she would call them all dead white males.

NEWS

State's biz tax climate improves

But Pennsylvania's still less tax-friendly toward business than most states.

By **THOMAS OLSON**
For The Valley Independent
tolson@tribweb.com

Pennsylvania remains less tax-friendly toward business than a majority of states for the fourth-straight year, according to a national ranking issued Tuesday.

But the state moved up a notch — to 27th-best from 28th — from the previous year, said the Tax Foundation, a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization in Washington. Its evaluation was based on Pennsylvania's standing given its business tax structure as of July 1.

Since then, however, Pennsylvania legislators crafted a \$27.9 billion budget accord Friday, and have yet to pass a budget for fiscal year 2010 that ends June 30.

And that budget accord looks to have improved the state's business climate, said Michael Wood, research director of the Pennsylvania Budget and Policy Center, a nonpartisan policy research group in

Harrisburg.

"I'd say the accord was friendly to business on balance," Wood said.

On one hand, state legislators increased business taxes by delaying the previously planned phase-out of the capital stock and franchise tax for the next two fiscal years, or through fiscal 2011, according to the Policy Center. That tax, a hybrid that is assessed on a company's earnings and its capital assets, went up a total of \$374 million.

On the other hand, lawmakers agreed to raise the cap on a tax credit that allows companies to use a portion of losses now to offset profits in years when they incur a tax liability. The change should help start-ups, such as technology companies. The so-called "net operating-loss carry forward" would rise from 12.5 percent of a company's losses, to 15 percent this year, and 20 percent next year and thereafter.

In addition, the budget accord alters the so-called "single-sales formula" figured into the corporate net-income tax, which is based on a company's sales, payroll and property. The change in the formula will favor large corporations

that generate much of their sales from outside Pennsylvania, Wood said.

"But a lot of (Pennsylvania) corporations only have property and employees in Pennsylvania, and they get no benefit from this change at all," he said.

At 9.99 percent, the state's corporate net-income tax is almost the highest in the nation. Iowa taxes any company earning more than \$100,000 at 10 percent or more, while Washington's rate is 9.98 percent.

The foundation ranked Pennsylvania's business tax climate as 30th in fiscal year 2008 and in fiscal 2007, but it was 22nd in fiscal 2006.

Pennsylvania does fare better than its adjacent states, with three of its neighbors among the five worst, according to the Tax Foundation's ranking. New Jersey was dead last, at 50th, New York was 49th, and Ohio was 47th. Maryland was 45th, and West Virginia was 37th.

"We have seen a number of states adopting tax increases," said Kail Padgett, the foundation economist who authored the study. "They are largely brought on by state revenue and budget shortfalls."



Some members of the Helmantoler family took *The Valley Independent* on vacation to Deadwood, S.D. Front row, from left, are Jerry Rattl, of Pittsburgh; Victoria Helmantoler, of Monongahela; Alicia Thorn, of Fairmont, W.Va.; Samantha Helmantoler, of Monongahela; and David Helmantoler, of Monongahela; and second row, Sonya Helmantoler, of Monongahela; Sali Helmantoler, of Monongahela; Sam Helmantoler Sr., of Monongahela; Tim Cushey, of Pittsburgh; Brad Bly, of Monongahela; and Jerry Cushey Sr., of Monongahela.

Appeals (FROM PAGE THREE)

A state Supreme Court ruling early this year found that the base-year assessment system in Allegheny County was unconstitutional and ordered a revaluation of all properties. The appellate court did not address other counties.

A Tribune-Review analysis of property values found that a majority of assessments in Westmoreland County varied by more than 20 percent from actual sales prices.

Wilt said the only remedy available to property owners is to file an appeal.

There were 1,086 appeals filed in 2008 and 1,051 in 2007.

For the 2010 challenges, the appeals board is holding hearings in 15-minute intervals throughout the morning of each workday.

Barbara Mofe and Bill Ferraro sit on the board with Wilt.

Fayette County appeal hearings will begin next week, said chief assessor Jeff Hercik. There were 525 appeals filed in Fayette.

"It's about average, maybe a little more," Hercik said.

The Allegheny County Assessment Appeals and Review Board is hearing cases

involving the 2009 tax year. Board Solicitor David Montgomery said about 9,000 appeals were filed for 2009, which is consistent with the number of appeals filed in recent years.

Appeals for the 2010 tax year must be filed by March 31.

Some appellants in Westmoreland County have come in and presented comprehensive cases, complete with detailed lists of comparable home sales and appraisals. Others simply plead their case.

Mofe said most appeals involve property owners submitting appraisals that reflect values lower than the county's assessment.

Three hearings held yesterday morning lasted just minutes, long enough for a property owner to pass over the table a copy of their appraisal.

Davis spent about 10 minutes with the board yesterday, explaining that he found a number of homes near his Mellon Road property that have lower assessments than his property.

"A lot of homes around me aren't selling at all," Davis said.

The board will notify Davis by mail no later than Nov. 15 to tell him whether his appeal was successful.



Charleroi Area High School will announce its homecoming queen Friday when it hosts South Allegheny. The court comprises, first row, from left: Mara Spina, Anna Amprim, Janny Camut, Heather Rialti, Daniella Todora, Sarah Rothrock, Leah Grillo and Tiffany Lee; and second row, same order: Greg Black, Zach Boehme, Ray Campbell, Jake Linn, Eric Anderson, Zach Meharey, Larry Pierce and Jesse Stringer.

Hazardous waste event Oct. 3

The annual Westmoreland Cleanways Household Hazardous Waste Collection will take place 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Oct. 3 at the Westmoreland Fairgrounds.

Household substances commonly marked "toxic," "hazardous," or "dispose according to local waste regulations" will be accepted.

The list includes aerosol cans, automotive fluids, degreasers, drain cleaners, fertilizers, old gasoline and fuel mixes, insecticides, oil-based paints, lacquers, mineral spirits, pesticides, pool chemicals, metal polish, chemistry sets, wood preservatives, fluorescent tubes.

The following will not be accepted: explosives, ammunition, radioactive waste, medicine, medical waste, smoke alarms, fire

extinguishers and any substance regulated by the U.S. Drug Enforcement Agency.

Fees will not be charged to residents of sponsoring municipalities and employees of sponsoring corporations.

Others might be charged up to \$40 depending on the quantity of material to be disposed.

Oil-based and alkyd paints, thinners and other solvents will be accepted. Latex — water-based — paint can be safely disposed at home by drying it.

Westmoreland Cleanways is discouraging people from bringing latex paint to the event because it can be effectively disposed at no cost by the homeowner.

For the proper method to dispose of latex paint and

an updated list of sponsors, visit www.westmoreland-cleanways.org or call (724) 836-4129.

MONONGAHELA AREA LIBRARY

The Monongahela Area Library has received the following:

Memorial Books
Anna Dejeet

"Good Day!" by Paul J. Batura, presented by New Eagle Borough and New Eagle Municipal Authority officials.

Art Doty

"The Duel," by Judith St. George, presented by Tom and Judy Caudill.

"Build your own Custom Closet," by Gillett Cole, presented by Tom and Helen Repasky.

Antoinette "Nettie" Fidanzato

"Poems," by Emily

Dickinson, presented by Sese Lignelli.

Jane Haines

"An Edible History of Humanity," by Tom Standage, presented by Betty and Bob Yowan.

"The Complete Guide to Floor Decor," presented by Bill and Elaine Boyles.

"Learn to Play Golf in a Weekend," by Edward Craig, presented by Ann and Audie George.

Donald Kibler

"The Mechanic," by Allan McIvor, presented by Leslie Wirtz.

James Mellor

"Gone Fishing," by David McLimans, presented by

Darlene Guzzie.

"Panda & Polar Bear," by Matthew J. Baek, presented by Barbara Polonoli Gallick.

Roz Neidermeyer

"Alex Cross's Trial," by James Patterson and "That Old Cape Magic," by Richard Russo, presented by Louise Cislak and family.

Dr. Stephen Tucker

"Thank God It's Monday," by Tim Hoerr, presented by Rose Ravasio and family.

Dorothy Zewan

"The Deep Blue Sea for Beginners," Luanne Rice, presented by The Residence at Hilltop.

IN THE SERVICE

Sereno Beneccio completes training

Airman 1st Class Sereno Giovanni Beneccio completed training at Lackland Air Force Base, Texas.

An Air National Guard member and reservist, he is assigned to the 171st Air Refueling Wing, Pittsburgh.



Beneccio

He is a senior education major at California University of Pennsylvania.

He is the son of Carmen and Shirley Beneccio, of Monessen. He is the grandson of Eleanor Stanchik, of Smithton.

When you make the grade

When submitting news items for our Making the Grade feature, please include the first and last names of all listed.

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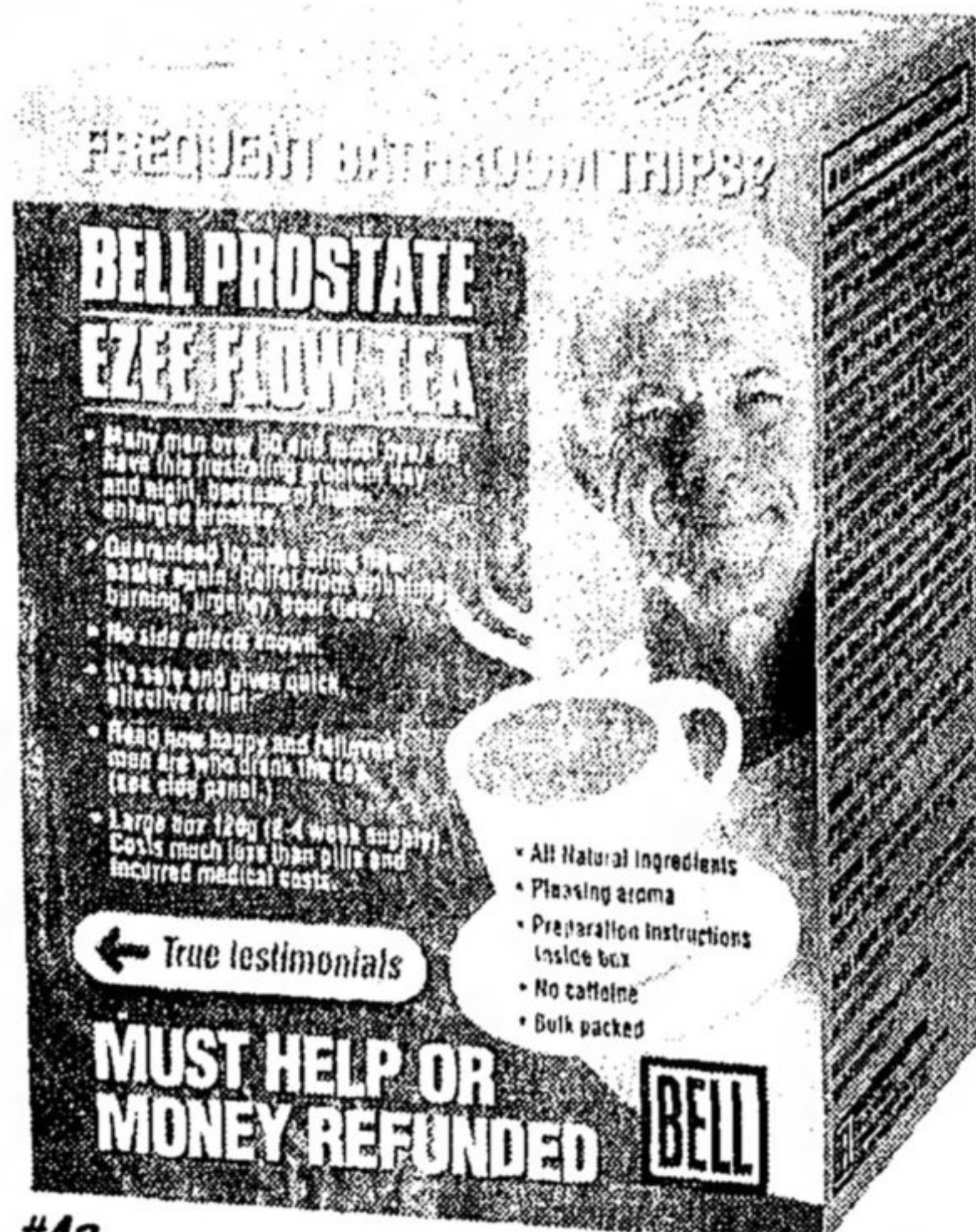
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NEWS

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True Testimonials: ■ Had to get up every hour at night. Now I get up once a night. What a relief. *Joseph Whittaker, Sewell, NJ* ■ **Doctor said keep on taking the tea** Prostate drugs did not help. *Leonard Pearcey, Wassis, NB* ■ **I cancelled my prostate surgery!** Get up just once a night now. Prostate Tea really works. I'm so happy not to face the torment of prostate surgery and possibly incontinence or impotency. *Albert E. Blain, 74, Schumacher, ON* ■ **Even after TURP prostate surgery** and microwave therapy had to get up many times a night. Down to 1-2 times. Tea is 100% better. *Robert G. Stocker, Eustis, FL* ■ **After 1st year drinking the tea** my PSA went down to 4.5; after 2nd year to 2.9; after 3rd year to 2.3. I highly recommend the tea. A real life saver. *Thomas M. Thurston, Forsyth, GA* ■ **If you are considering prostate surgery, try this tea first.** Hundreds more witnesses with full names and towns on our website.



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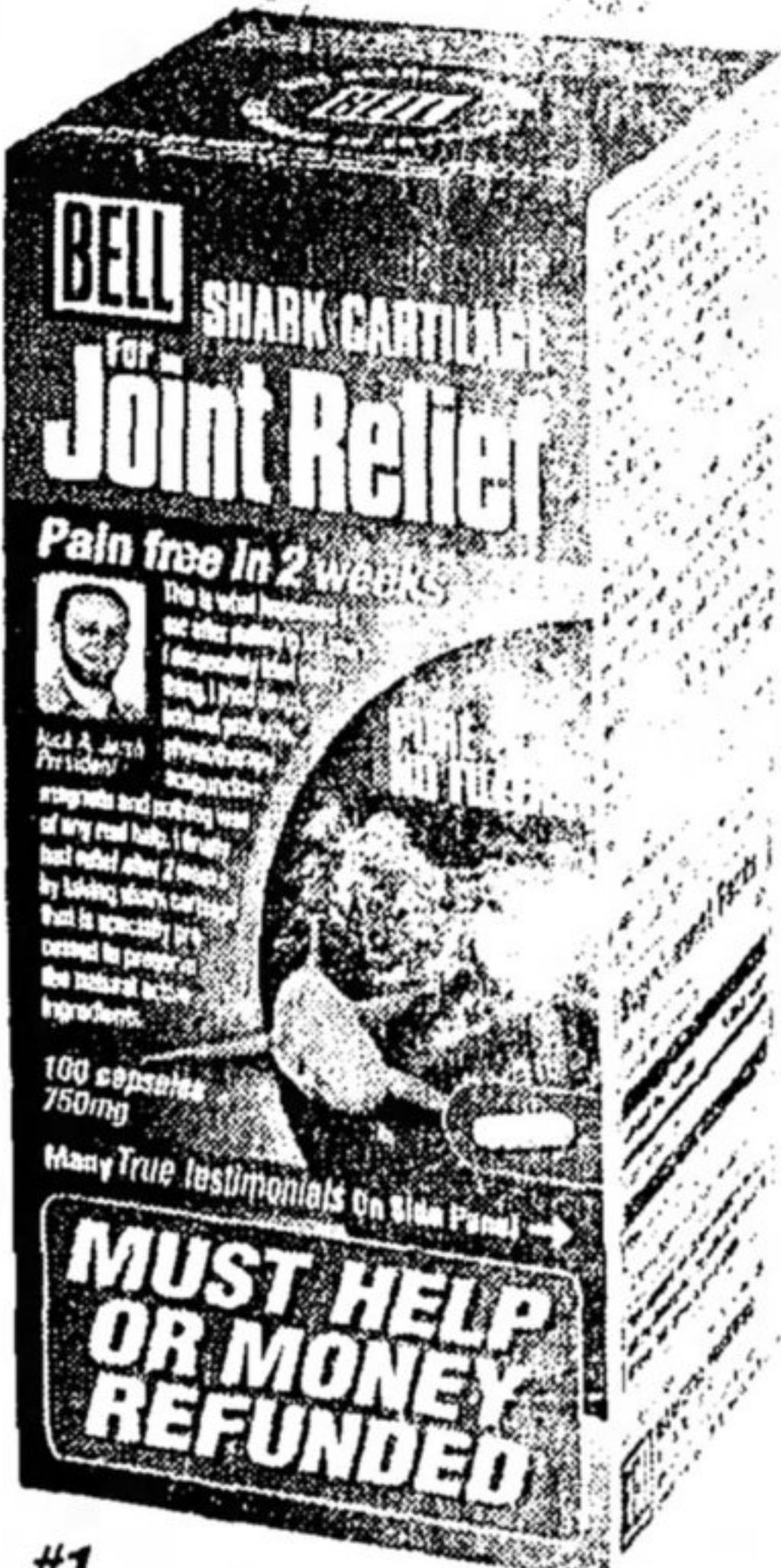


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#1

free. Pain killing drugs mask and Bell Shark Cartilage heals. *Rebecca Hite, Oroville, CA* ■ **I tried another brand and pain came back.** 2 weeks on Bell and pain is gone again. *Gert Dupuis, Hamner, ON* ■ **Cancelled knee replacement.** I was in pain and limping. Have no more pain now. Can square dance for hours. *Anton Melnychuk, Porcupine Plain, SK.*



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Associated Press

Gary Nisbet, 35, left, and Randy Joubert, 36, pose for a photo, in Waldoboro, Maine. The men who work together discovered they are brothers who were each raised by separate adoptive parents.

Maine worker discovers new hire is lost brother

The attention brothers Gary Nisbet and Randy Joubert got after finding each other led to their reunion with a sister.

By GLENN ADAMS

Associated Press Writer

WALDOBORO, Maine — Seven years into his tenure as a furniture mover for a local bedding retailer, Gary Nisbet was joined by a new colleague, Randy Joubert, who looked so much like him that customers asked whether they were brothers. "We thought they were just trying to razz us," Joubert said.

Turns out the customers were on to something. They really are brothers — and the attention they got after finding each other also has turned up a sister.

The two men were given up for adoption as babies about 35 years ago, then attended rival high schools and even lived in neighboring towns on the Maine coast before working together at Dow's Sleep Center in tiny Waldoboro and uncovering their relationship.

"This kid could have been anywhere in the world, and here I am riding in a Dow furniture truck with him," Joubert said in a telephone interview earlier this week.

Joubert's adoptive mother, Jacqueline Joubert, of Grand Island, Fla., said she and her late husband raised him with four sisters. She said he knew from a young age he was adopted and she wasn't surprised he would try to find his biological siblings when he grew up.

She said she always thought he had a brother because a social worker at the time of his adoption had mentioned it.

"But when he said he was driving a furniture truck with him, that really surprised me," she said. "I think it's great."

Dow's hired Randy Joubert on July 7, and soon afterward co-workers began commenting on how similar he and Nisbet looked. Both are light-haired, wear glasses and have stocky builds. Their goatees and curled-brim baseball caps add to the effect.

Joubert, 36, laughed off the commentary but admits he noticed the similarities himself, even mentioning them to his fiancée. He started taking the comments more seriously when people also took notice while he and Nisbet, 35, were out making deliveries.

"Customers would ask if we were brothers more often than not," he said. "Then my brain started heading that way."

Joubert had already taken advantage of a new state law allowing adoptees to see their original birth certificates and found out the names of his biological parents, who had died by then.

With further help from statistics officials, he also learned that he had a brother — and his brother's original name. Joubert and Nisbet had been removed from their birth parents' home because the couple could not properly care for them.

Well armed with details, Joubert posed a few questions to Nisbet while the two were making deliveries about three weeks ago.

"I said, 'Gary, I'm going to ask you a strange question: Are you adopted?'" Joubert recalled.

Nisbet gave him a strange look and answered, yes, he was adopted.

Then Joubert asked whether Nisbet knew his parents' names. Nisbet, who had learned details of his adoption through a court request, again answered yes.

Joubert recited the couple's names — only to meet a mixed reaction of amazement and annoyance.

"He takes off his hat and says, 'How did you know that?'" Joubert recalled.

When Joubert asked about Nisbet's birth date, June 10, 1974, he knew he had found his long-lost brother.

"I about fell over," he said, "because I knew that date."

Nisbet, the quieter of the two, said he was "star-struck and blown away. I couldn't even believe it." He was raised with three brothers and a sister in his adoptive family but never knew he had a biological brother.

The brothers kept their story under wraps at work until last week, colleagues said.

"Everybody was standing around with their mouths open. The girls had the tears flying and the guys, just, 'Wow!'" Dow's employee Greg Berry said. "There's nothing like family, especially when you don't have one. Now they've got it."

More than they know what to do with, it seems.

After all the attention the brothers' story received in the Maine press, a half-sister turned up at Dow's furniture with copies of her birth certificate and other documents proving their relationship.

Joubert says Joanne Campbell, of nearby Warren, was "hysterical" with joy when she found her brothers. Campbell, 41, had the same mother as Joubert and Nisbet.

"I searched for her too," Joubert said, "and I was close to finding her."

Additional charges likely against murder suspect

California rapper already faces one homicide charge and may be hit with three more.

By DENA POTTER

Associated Press Writer

FARMVILLE, Va. — Four people found slain in a small Virginia college town were killed by blows to the head, and the aspiring California rapper suspected of killing them will likely face more charges, authorities said Tuesday.

Richard Alden Samuel McCroskey III, 20, is already charged with killing one of the four — Mark Niederbrock, a pastor at a Presbyterian church in central Virginia.

At a news conference Tuesday, the other victims were identified as:

■ Longwood University professor Debra Kelley, 53.

■ Emma Niederbrock, 16,

the daughter of Kelley and Mark Niederbrock.

■ Melanie Wells, 18, of Berryville, W.Va.

The bodies were discovered over the weekend at Kelley's home in Farmville, about 50 miles west of Richmond.

Debra Kelley and Mark Niederbrock had been separated for about a year.

Prince Edward County Commonwealth's Attorney Jim Ennis would not reveal what kind of weapon was used to kill the victims nor a possible motive.

He confirmed that McCroskey was staying in Kelley's home during his visit to Virginia and called the investigation "unparalleled" in the small college town.

He said there was no indication that anyone else was involved and would not give a timeline for when the victims died.

He said it would take a

significant amount of time to get through all the forensic evidence.

"We are going coast to coast on this investigation," Ennis said.

Additional homicide charges are anticipated at some point in the future, but not until more forensic evidence is processed.

Sarah McCroskey has said her brother was a meek and kind person who never fought back when picked on and wouldn't do anything unless provoked.

"He was extremely passive, so just hearing that my brother is the main suspect just really blows my mind," she said.

That low-key demeanor was described by police who had two run-ins with him in the days before his arrest Saturday.

Authorities said he was calm, never acting in a strange or suspicious manner.

NEWS

Judge rules grizzlies still threatened

Ruling affects the status of some 600 bears near Yellowstone National Park.

By **MATTHEW BROWN**
Associated Press Writer

BILLINGS, Mont. — Facing the combined pressures of climate change, hunters and lax protections, 600 grizzly bears in and around Yellowstone National Park are going back on the threatened species list under a federal court order issued this week.

The ruling highlighted climate change's devastation to whitebark pine forests, which produce nuts that some grizzlies rely upon as a mainstay.

With hundreds of thousands of the trees dead or dying over the last two decades, bears striking out in search of new food sources increasingly are being shot in conflicts with humans.

"There is a connection between whitebark pine and grizzly survival," U.S. District Judge Donald Molloy wrote in Monday's ruling.

Hunting for grizzlies is illegal. But at least 20 were killed last year by hunters acting in self-defense or after mistaking them for other animals.

The greater Yellowstone area of Montana, Idaho and Wyoming has one of the densest concentrations of grizzlies in the lower 48 states.

The animals were declared recovered in March 2007 after bouncing back from near-extinction last century.

At the time, the grizzly bear program was touted by the Bush administration as a model framework for restoring at-risk species.



Associated Press

A grizzly bear walks through Yellowstone National Park near Mammoth, Wyo., in this May 4 file photo. A federal judge this week restored protections for the Yellowstone region bears.

successfully balancing conservation and the pressures of human development.

But in his ruling, Molloy sharply criticized the rationale behind the decision and ordered the Obama administration to immediately restore the animal's threatened status.

The 46-page ruling resolves a lawsuit brought by the Greater Yellowstone Coalition, a Bozeman, Mont., group that had argued the bears' recovery remained tenuous. A separate lawsuit in federal court in Idaho still is pending.

Molloy cited as a key factor in his decision the decline of whitebark pine, which has suffered widespread damage from forest fires, pine beetles and other factors that researchers say are exacerbated by a warming climate.

Government researchers have made similar links. However, those results were downplayed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in

its 2007 decision.

"There is a disconnect between the studies the agency relies on here and its conclusions," Molloy wrote.

Molloy also said that state and federal conservation plans meant to protect Yellowstone-area grizzlies were inadequate. He said the government relied too heavily on population monitoring and failed to spell out what steps would be taken if grizzly numbers started to fall.

A Fish and Wildlife spokesman said Monday that Molloy's ruling was under review. Grizzlies were first listed as endangered in 1975.

The government has spent more than \$20 million on its effort to restore the species.

"We're going to take some time with this ruling because it's so significant," Fish and Wildlife spokesman Matt Kales said. "This is obviously a pretty big policy matter for us."

Ex-contractor with Murtha ties sentenced for obstructing justice

Case is part of a continuing investigation into alleged wrongdoing by contractors and lobbyists with ties to the Johnstown Democrat.

By **The Associated Press**

PENSACOLA, Fla. — A former defense contractor for Eglin Air Force Base was sentenced to four years' probation Tuesday for obstructing justice as part of wider fraud scheme by contractors and defense lobbyists with ties to U.S. Rep. John Murtha, of Johnstown.

U.S. District Judge Lacey Collier sentenced chemical engineer Theodore Sumrall to probation instead of prison after noting his cooperation with federal agents investigating kickbacks taken from federal funds earmarked by Congress for high-tech defense research at the Eglin lab.

Sumrall is among several defendants cooperating with prosecutors investigating alleged wrongdoing by contractors and lobbyists with ties to Murtha, a veteran Democratic lawmaker whose sprawling district includes much of the Mid-Mon Valley.

Murtha, chairman of the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Defense, has not been accused of criminal wrongdoing.

"This sentence is below the guidelines because of your timely and useful assistance in the prosecution of others," Collier told Sumrall.

Sumrall had faced up to 25 years in prison and \$500,000 in fines after pleading guilty in June to two counts of destroying records and helping hide a lab supervisor's connection to Schaller Engineering, a company that employed Sumrall.

Jim Jenkins, Sumrall's attorney, said Tuesday his client would continue to cooperate with prosecutors. Jenkins said Sumrall, a research engineer involved in designing high-tech battlefield systems, did not play a major role in government's case. "He was a technical scientist," Jenkins said.

Sumrall's case is linked to that of his employer, retired Air Force lieutenant colonel Richard Schaller, who was convicted in July by a federal jury of destroying

records and lying to a grand jury about defense contracts awarded by the Eglin Lab.

Schaller was convicted of helping a lab supervisor, retired Air Force Col. Mark O'Hair, steer contracts to Schaller's company.

O'Hair previously pleaded guilty to federal charges of false statements and conflict of interest. Schaller and O'Hair are scheduled for sentencing in October.

Sumrall pleaded guilty to helping hide O'Hair's financial stake in Schaller Engineering from the Air Force while O'Hair steered millions of dollars in lab research projects to the company.

Also involved in the Eglin case is Richard Ianieri, the former chief executive of a defense contractor with ties to Murtha. Ianieri pleaded guilty July 20 to defrauding the Air Force and has been cooperating with federal prosecutors.

His sentencing is not yet scheduled.

At Schaller's trial, Ianieri testified his company, Coherent Systems International Corp., received an \$8.5 million congressional earmark to improve communications on the battlefield. O'Hair was responsible for approving the project for the Air Force.

Instead of approving the project for Ianieri's company alone as the Air Force had intended, O'Hair flew to Coherent's Pennsylvania office's on a plane rented by Schaller's company and visited a lobbying firm connected with Schaller's company. He then approved numerous invoices dividing the \$8.5 million among Ianieri's company and four smaller companies including Schaller engineering, Ianieri testified.

Executives at Coherent and two other companies named in court papers in Ianieri's Florida case have donated over \$95,000 to Murtha's re-election campaigns and his political action committee since 2002, according to Federal Election Commission records.

Ianieri, who is cooperating with federal prosecutors, also worked closely with others who have been linked to Murtha.

The Justice Department investigation focuses on the campaign donations from defense contractors that have fueled the process of congressional earmarks for many decades.

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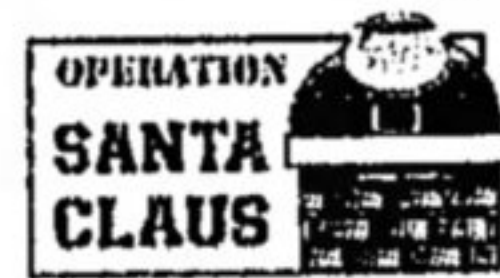
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1. To enter, visit contests.TribLIVE.com or return your completed entry form, cake photo and \$10.00 required registration fee to: Holiday Cupcake Creation Challenge, c/o Trib Total Media, 503 Martindale St., Suite 250, Pittsburgh, PA 15212. 2. Color or black/white 4x6 photos will be accepted. Photos can not be returned, but will be available for pick up following the selection of contestants at the Trib Total Media offices located at the address listed above. 3. All entries must be received by 5:00 PM Friday, September 25, 2009. 4. Only one photo per contestant will be accepted. 5. Trib Total Media readers will cast their votes for their favorite cakes by ballots online at contests.TribLIVE.com. 6. Contest will consist of an entry period (August 24 - September 25) and voting period (September 25 - October 16). 7. 1st place prize will include \$1,000 cash courtesy of Relish Magazine and other prizes as yet to be determined. 2nd and 3rd place prizes will also be awarded. 8. Contest is open to all bakers - amateur and professional - residing within the Trib Total Media home delivery area. Employees of Trib Total Media and sponsor companies are not eligible to participate. 9. Void where prohibited by law. All federal, state and local laws and regulations apply. 10. Additional rules and regulations may apply. 11. Donations are voluntary. Entry and voting may be done at minimal cost by visiting contests.TribLIVE.com or contacting Trib Total Media Marketing Department at 412.320.7941.

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POLITICS

Obama picking sides to prevent Dem primary battles

President is putting his popularity and fundraising prowess on the line in several states.

By LIZ SIDOTI
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — A nod here. A nudge there. And the weight of the White House backing them up.

President Barack Obama hasn't been shy about choosing sides to prevent Democratic Party primaries, which is something like a parent picking the favorite child in a sibling squabble — only with arguably higher stakes.

With midterm elections looming next fall, the president is putting his popularity and fundraising prowess behind Senate incumbents in Pennsylvania, Colorado and New York.

In a more surprising twist, the White House also made it known that it's concerned about New York Gov.

David Paterson's bid for a full term. Or, more specifically, that it's worried that an unpopular governor could not just lose but also drag down the ticket, putting Senate and House seats in jeopardy.

The implied — if not direct — message: Don't run.

Not that Obama had anything negative to say earlier this week — at least in public — when he traveled to Albany, N.Y. The president called Paterson "a wonderful man" during an unrelated appearance at Hudson Valley Community College after the governor greeted Obama when Air Force One landed.

A full year before the 2010 elections, the president clearly has embraced his other job, party standard-bearer. To varying degrees, every White House puts its hands in political races. But presidents before Obama didn't face a 24/7 news culture that seemingly has the

spotlight shining much brighter on the White House — and presidential maneuvering in electoral politics.

"It was always there but it was more under the table so it was not always as obvious the White House was getting involved," said the Brookings Institution's Stephen Hess, who worked in the Eisenhower and Nixon administrations and was an advisor to Presidents Ford and Carter.

"It's a dangerous game that a president plays," Hess added.

Chief among the risks: Obama's influence could be questioned if his chosen candidates lose.

Outwardly, Obama seems cool to party housekeeping chores, among them raising money, recruiting candidates and clearing the political field for them if needed. He is careful not to appear overtly partisan unless it's in his best interest politically. He prefers to publicly

portray himself as almost nonpartisan as he talks of the need to end partisan gridlock in Washington in favor of bipartisan solution-making.

But Obama wants to ensure that he protects his comfortable Democratic majorities in Congress as best he can. Historically, the party in power loses seats in Congress during a president's second year, and Obama wants to minimize losses. Republicans are targeting more than two dozen House seats held by Democrats in districts Republican John McCain won last year in the presidential race. Democrats are in better shape in the Senate, where a wave of GOP retirements has lessened the prospects of Democratic defeats.

Still, party primaries are undesirable. They are costly in both dollars and manpower, and can leave the eventual nominee severely damaged heading into a general election.



Associated Press

President Barack Obama, right, embraces Sen. Arlen Specter, D-Pa., at a fundraising event at in Philadelphia in this Sept. 15 file photo. Obama hasn't been shy about choosing sides to prevent Democratic Party primaries, which is something like a parent picking the favorite child in a sibling squabble — only with arguably higher stakes.

N.Y. governor mum after lukewarm intro by President Obama

If Obama endorses anyone for governor of New York, it could be state Attorney General Andrew Cuomo rather than incumbent Gov. David Paterson, the state's first black chief executive.

By VALERIE BAUMAN
Associated Press Writer

TROY, N.Y. — Gov. David Paterson had weathered a weekend in which veiled messages were sent to him from Washington Democrats to drop out of the gubernatorial race and make room for the more popular Andrew Cuomo to lead a critical 2010 ticket.

Then, on Monday, some of the veils appeared to be pulled away, but that only threw Paterson into even more uncertainty.

At an event just a short drive from the governor's mansion, President Barack Obama gave Paterson a cordial, almost perfunctory introduction, calling his Democratic colleague, the state's first black and legally blind governor, a "wonderful man." Nothing about leadership or accomplishment in the job Paterson inherited just 18 months ago when former Gov. Eliot Spitzer resigned amid a prostitution scandal and a continuing fiscal crisis.

Then came Obama's near high-fiving of Cuomo, the state attorney general who has long eyed the office once held by his father, Mario Cuomo.

Obama joked with the hard-charging, headline-grabbing Andrew Cuomo, calling him "your shy and retiring attorney general."

"Andrew's doing great work enforcing the laws that need to be enforced," Obama said as he cast a warm smile toward Cuomo and the two made eye contact.

Obama didn't look at Paterson in his introduction.

Paterson has declined to comment.

Politics professor Doug Muzzio, from New York City's Baruch College, viewed video of the Obama event afterward and said he thought "that you would have to be pretty dense not to get the message."

There were other perceived slights, the lack of private meetings, the limited face time in public, even the separate limo rides to the event at Hudson Valley Community College. But on television footage broadcast statewide, Obama fueled reports and rumors that he wanted Paterson and his historic low polling numbers to go away and not threaten the first all-Democratic control of the blue state's government.

It's an unusual move in politics in New York, where presidents often visit but usually to stock their campaign accounts or to pay respects to ground zero or speak at the United Nations.

On Monday, just before Obama's event, Obama's aides insisted he wasn't interfering with New York politics. However, before Obama landed, spokesman Robert Gibbs wouldn't say whether the president ordered that word be sent to Paterson that he does not want him to seek re-election.

"Well, look, I think everybody understands the tough jobs that every elected official has right now in addressing many of the problems that we have, and I think people are aware of the tough situation that the governor of New York is in," Gibbs told reporters aboard the president's plane. "And I wouldn't add a lot to what you've read, except this is a decision that he's going to make."

Gibbs said it wasn't unusual for the White House to be involved in state races. Asked whether there were any risks to such involvement, Gibbs answered: "The hazards of the job."

It would be the first time Obama would act to remove a Democrat in power. That would be a new and potentially risky step among the massive egos in New York, even for a president raised in rough-and-tumble Chicago politics.

But Obama has already dipped into New York politics, throwing his support to Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand, a former congresswoman whom Paterson appointed to succeed Hillary Rodham Clinton.

A call from Obama was enough to take one possible primary opponent, U.S. Rep. Steve Israel, out of Gillibrand's path.

Democrats need to hold every Senate seat next year to keep a filibuster-proof margin in the chamber.

Obama also endorsed Scott Murphy during a close special election to fill Gillibrand's upstate seat and lent his image to campaign mailers. Vice President Joe Biden did advertising spots for Murphy, who eventually won.

Former Republican Gov. George Pataki, speaking for the national GOP, said Obama shouldn't get involved.

"I just think it's wrong," Pataki said.

"To weaken and undermine the governor beyond the weakness that already exists ... to me just doesn't serve the interests of the state, doesn't serve the interests of our country."

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Valley SPORTS

Burress behind bars

Plaxico Burress has begun serving a two-year sentence on a weapons charge. **2B**

Craft of the Week

"Check-It-Out Afghans" are a fun craft that is easy to make. **6B**

1B

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 2009

THE VALLEY INDEPENDENT

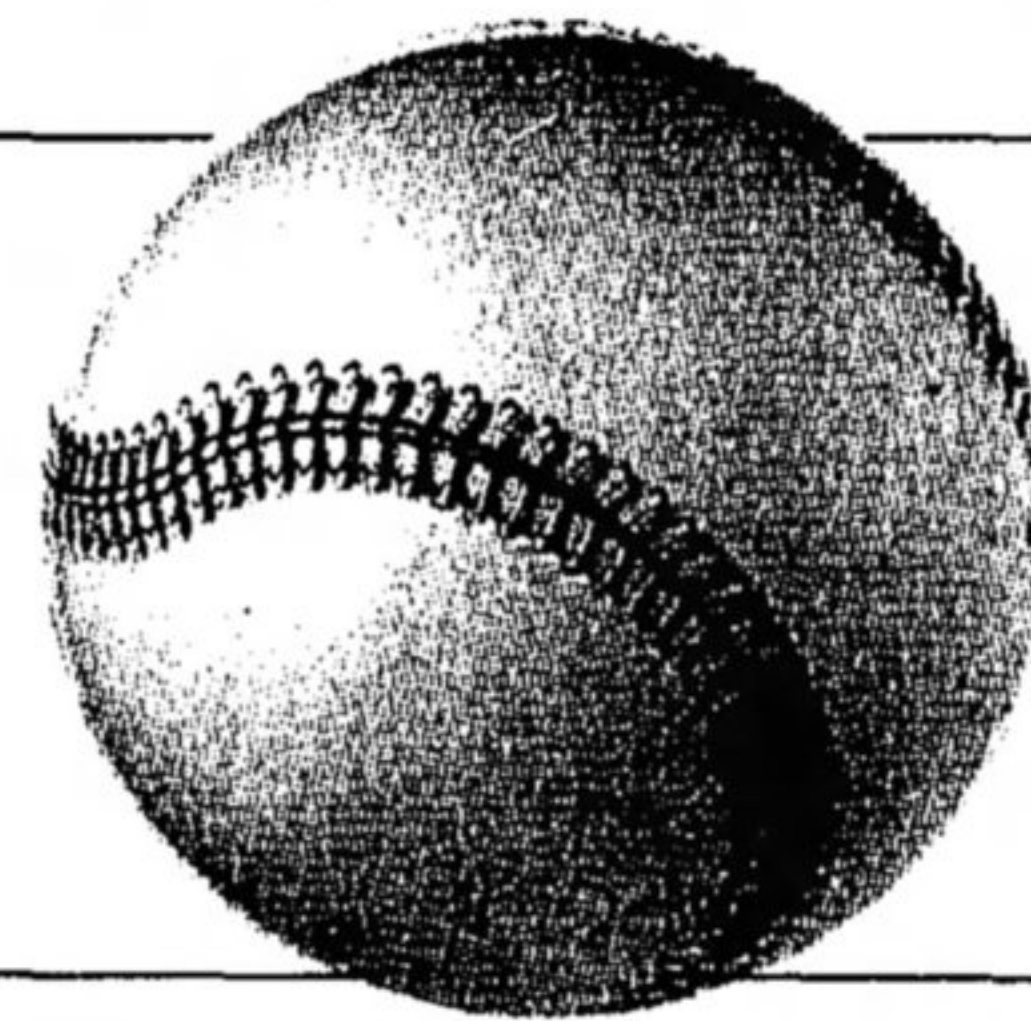
Pens drop shootout

Nazem Kadri tied Tuesday's game in the third period, then scored the game-winner for Toronto in a shootout. **2B**



Sports Trivia

Which two Penn State players were Cincinnati Bengals' first round draft picks? **2B**



Last night's score

Philadelphia 9, Florida 3, 1st game
Cincinnati 10, Pittsburgh 4
L.A. Dodgers 14, Washington 2
Atlanta 3, N.Y. Mets 1
Florida 3, Philadelphia 0, 2nd game
Chicago Cubs 7, Milwaukee 2

Brian HERMAN



Steelers not looking super on defense

Thinking out loud:

■ Two games don't make a season. But the 2009 Pittsburgh Steelers don't look anything like last year's team that won nine of its last 10 games, including an unprecedented sixth Super Bowl.

The defense is nowhere near being the best in the NFL, as it was a year ago.

Although the defense may be strong against the run, it isn't when quarterbacks go to the air.

Tennessee's Kerry Collins, who's never been confused with Tom Brady or Peyton Manning, threw for 244 yards in the opener, with Chicago's Jay Cutler following with 236 yards.

Last year during the regular season, the Steelers allowed an average of 149 passing yards a game.

Yes, the absence of Troy Polamalu in Chicago made a big difference.

But coach Mike Tomlin and defensive coordinator Dick LeBeau will be the first to say you have to work with the hand that was dealt you.

With Cincinnati's Carson Palmer and San Diego's Philip Rivers coming up the next two Sundays, it doesn't look promising for the Polamalu-less Steelers.

■ I remember when the series between the Pittsburgh Pirates and Cincinnati Reds matched two of the National League's best teams.

These days the Pirates — who've lost 21 of their last 24 games and are seven away from the 100-defeat mark — rank among the major league's worst teams and the Reds aren't much better.

It wasn't surprising that only around 10,000 actually attended last night's meeting at PNC Park.

The Pirates are averaging 19,316 at home or almost half of PNC's capacity of 38,362.

■ How bad is the Class AAA Keystone Conference?

There's word that Brownsville, which can't win in the Class AA Interstate Conference, would like to move up to Class AAA and play in the Keystone.

Like I said before, Belle Vernon Area and Ringgold would be bona fide title contenders in the Keystone. The Leps will have a chance to prove that Friday night when they host one of the Keystone's favorites, Greensburg Salem.

■ Look for Ringgold coach Lloyd Price to be on the sidelines when his Rams take on Thomas Jefferson Friday night in their Big 7 Conference opener.

■ It seems strange to look at the NCAA Division II football rankings and not see California University in the Top 25. The 2-2 Vulcans, who lost their first two games to No. 18 Saginaw Valley State and No. 5 Bloomsburg, have only one ranked team left on their schedule — at No. 23 Indiana next week.

IUP could be hurting after losing highly touted senior cornerback Akwasi Owusu-Ansah and junior free safety Max Khuri with shoulder injuries in the first half a 20-16 loss to Mercyhurst in Erie.

■ And thanks to Tom Rapp, of Carroll Township, who says karate is chop talk!

Searching for an identity

Numbers aside, the Steelers consider themselves a running team.

By SCOTT BROWN
For The Valley Independent

Wide receiver Hines Ward has insisted that the Pittsburgh Steelers are a running team.

The statistics, at least through the first two games, suggest otherwise.

The Steelers have run the ball only 37 percent of the time this season. That is a stark contrast to the past two times they won the Super Bowl.

Through the first two games last season, the Steelers ran the ball 65 percent of the time. Over the same span in 2005, they went to the ground 70 percent of the time.

Coach Mike Tomlin, however, made it clear Tuesday that he doesn't care about such statistical breakdowns even though the Steelers have long prided themselves on imposing their will on opponents.

Tomlin said he isn't concerned about style points as much as he is with the ones on the scoreboard — no matter how the Steelers get them.

"I think that the great teams are capable of winning in many forms and fashions, playing to your strengths on a week-to-week basis based on the matchup," Tomlin said at his weekly news conference. "I thought a great deal

about that this offseason. You study a team like New England and you watch them walk into a stadium offensively week to week and they can be whatever they choose to be.

"They can beat you with four wide(outs), three wide(outs), three tight ends, and it makes them very difficult to prepare for and ultimately beat them. We want to kind of create that persona."

If the first two games are any indication, the Steelers have a ways to go to accomplish that.

They have managed just three touchdowns in eight-plus quarters, and the running game remains under intense scrutiny.

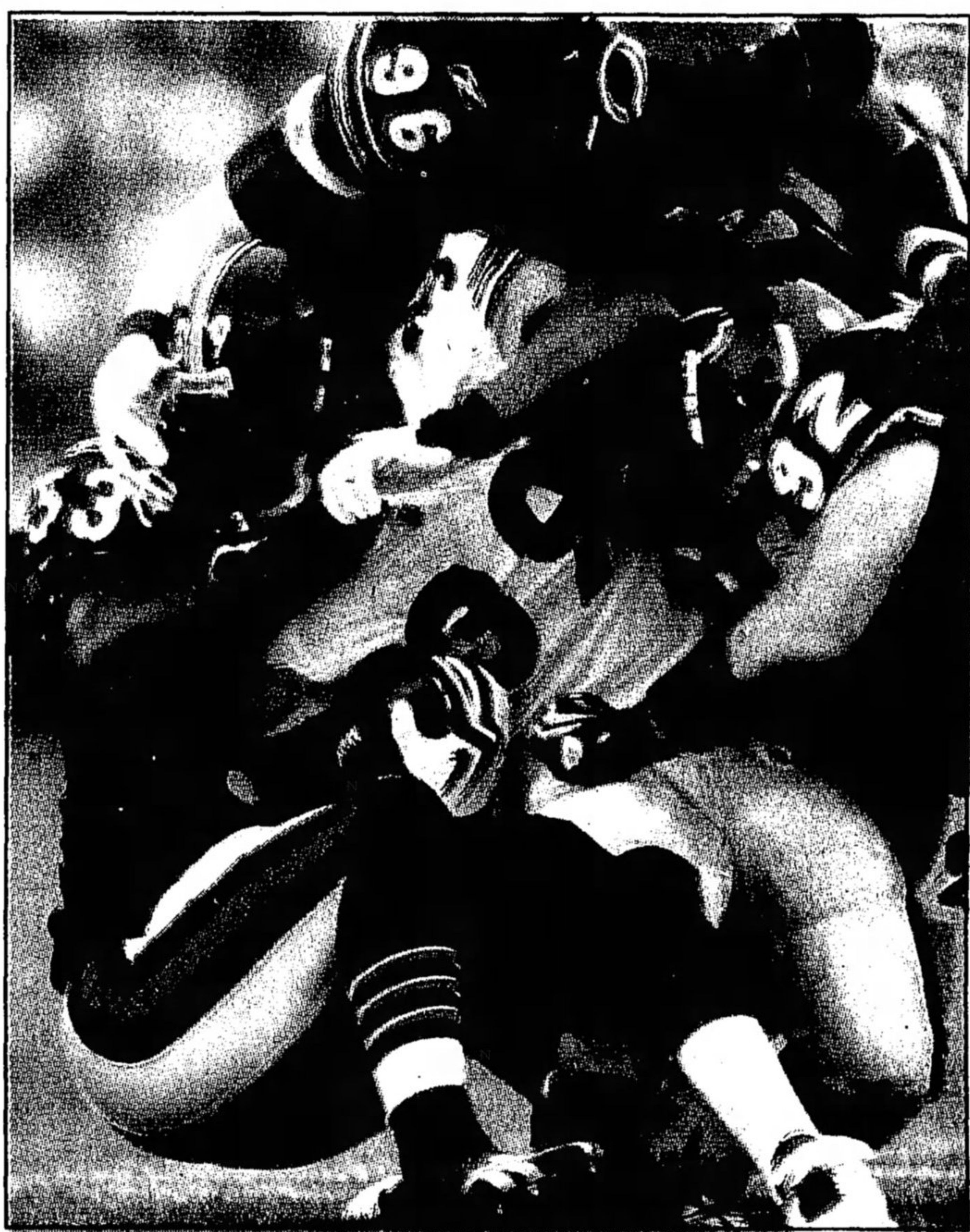
The Steelers did make strides in that area against the Chicago Bears, as they averaged 4.8 rushing yards on 22 carries. They also had four runs of at least 12 yards, including a 39-yard burst by Rashard Mendenhall.

That set up a 2-yard touchdown run by quarterback Ben Roethlisberger.

"I think that was one of the upsides," starting right tackle Willie Colon said of the game last Sunday. "We gashed them a little bit."

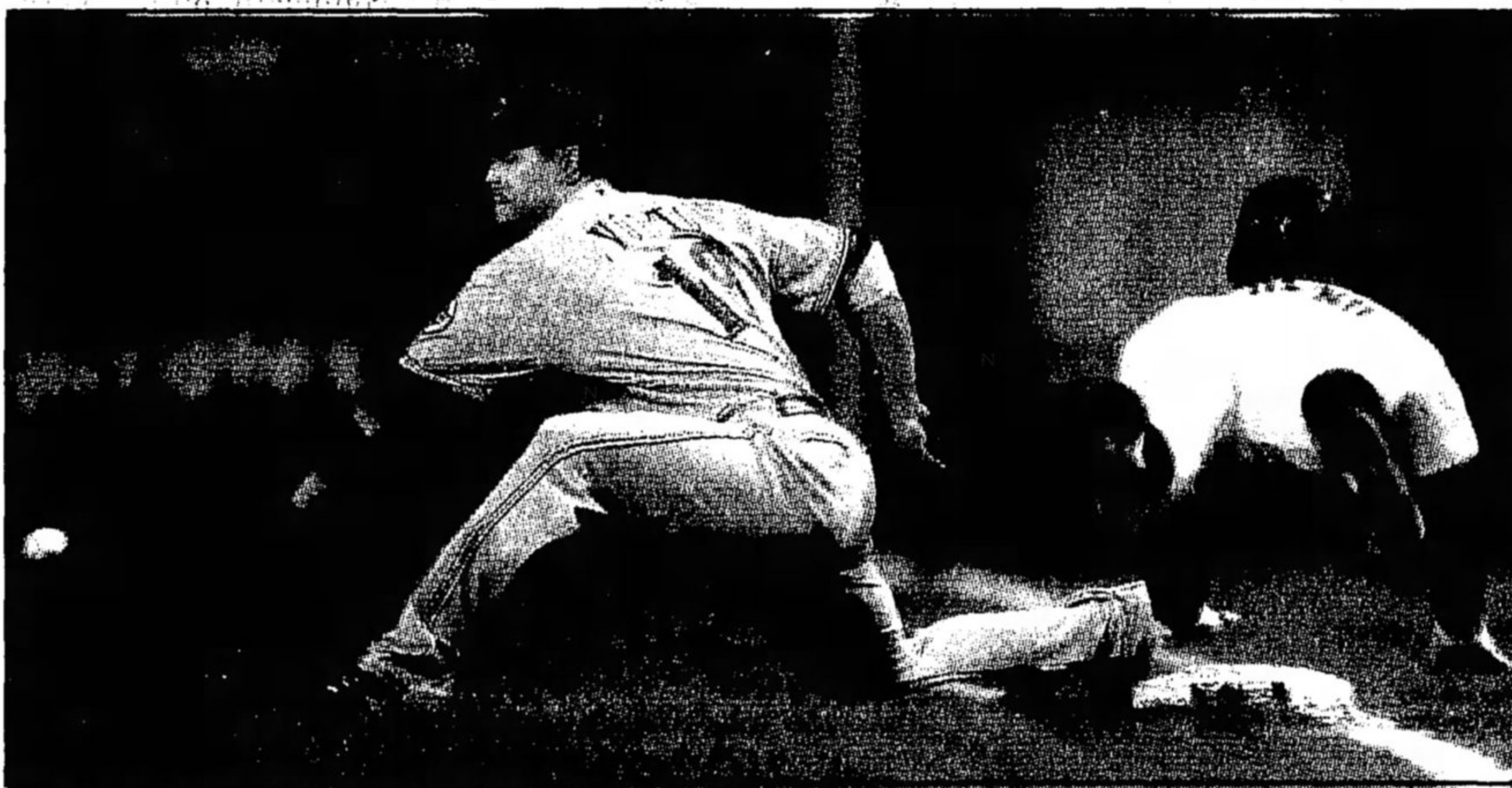
The Steelers rank 28th out of the NFL's 32 teams in rushing yards, and they could face a stern test this weekend in Cincinnati. The Bengals' defense is ranked 11th against the rush, allowing 164 yards in two games.

When asked about the running (See STEELERS, Page 2B)



Associated Press

Willie Parker is gang tackled in Sunday's loss at Chicago.



Associated Press

Pittsburgh's Ronny Cedeno, right, dives for first base as Cincinnati first baseman Joey Votto reaches for a throw from Scott Rolen in the second inning Tuesday. Cedeno was safe as the ball got past Votto.

Pirates clinch last place

Rolen, Votto each have three hits in Reds' 10-4 victory.

PITTSBURGH (AP) — Scott Rolen and Joey Votto sent the Pittsburgh Pirates to another low in their lost season.

Rolen had three hits and three RBIs, Votto had three doubles and scored three runs and the Cincinnati Reds beat Pittsburgh 10-4 on Tuesday night, clinching the Pirates' third straight last-place finish in the NL Central.

Pittsburgh (56-93) lost for the 21st time in 24 games, the Pirates' worst stretch since they lost 24 of 28 from July 13-Aug. 15, 1985.

"It's very wearing, obviously," Pirates starter Zach Duke said. "We're all desperate for a win right now and just for a well-played ballgame."

Andrew McCutchen homered and had two RBIs and Garrett Jones and Lastings Milledge had three hits each for Pittsburgh, which has lost four straight, seven of eight and 12 of 14.

"It's no fun at all," Pirates manager John Russell said.

"Nobody likes to lose. But we've got to come back tomorrow, make sure we get ready and make sure we give ourselves a chance and hopefully this turns around. Nobody here — the staff or the players — nobody enjoys this one bit."

Johnny Gomes and Ramon Hernandez both went 2 for 4 for the Reds, who have won six of eight. All eight Cincinnati starting position players had at least one hit. Johnny Cueto (10-10) allowed two runs and nine hits in five innings to win his second consecutive decision following a six-game losing streak.

Cincinnati got all the scoring it would need during a five-run fifth against Duke that included Brandon Phillips two-run single and RBI doubles by Votto and Rolen.

"We got a lot of two-out RBI knocks in that fifth, and that was big because (Duke) was sailing along pretty good until then," Reds manager Dusty Baker said.

McCutchen led off the first with a home run for the fourth time this season, hitting a 2-0 pitch into the seats down the left-field line

for his 12th home run.

"I settled down, definitely, came down and concentrated more after that," Cueto said through an interpreter.

Cueto skipped his previous scheduled start because he had the flu.

"I was happy because for three full days I was sick and not throwing a baseball," he said.

Ronny Cedeno drove in Milledge with a double in the fourth. The Reds added three runs in the seventh against Donnie Veal and Chris Bootcheck when Rolen, Gomes and Juan Francisco had RBI singles.

In his previous start at PNC Park, Duke (10-15) gave up hits to the first eight Chicago Cubs. On Tuesday, seven of eight Reds reached during the fifth — although one was on an error by catcher Ryan Doumit — and the only batter he retired in that span was Cueto on a sacrifice bunt.

Other than the five-run fifth, Duke allowed only four baserunners in his other six innings but lost his fourth straight decision. The Pirates have lost nine of his past 10 starts.

BVA boys fall down to third

By BILL HUGHES
For The Valley Independent

Belle Vernon Area's boys' soccer team is in third place in Class AA Section 3 following a tough 2-1 loss at Southmoreland Tuesday.

Down 2-0 at halftime, Mark Tomich scored for the Leps (6-2-1, 3-1-1).

"We were dominated in the first half," said BVA coach Chris Stasicha. "But I'm proud with how the boys played in the second half"

The Leps face a tough test Thursday at home against front-running South Park (6-1, 5-0).

Elizabeth Forward 6, Uniontown 0

It's a shame that Tyler Abels only gets to play at Uniontown once a year.

The Elizabeth Forward junior netted a career-high five goals to tie a school record in the Warriors' Class AA Section 3 victory.

"Tyler was on tonight and the guys set him up with good passes," said E-F coach Dave King said. Nick Ragan added the sixth for the Warriors (4-5, 2-3), who host Yough Thursday.

Carlynton 3, Monessen 0

The Greyhounds had a two-game winning streak snapped by the Class A Section 4 leaders and were blanked for the first time.

The contest was scoreless for 67 minutes.

"What a tough game to lose because this was our best effort of the year," said Monessen coach Sam Perry. "The final score was not indicative of how close this game was. Our kids gave us everything."

Monessen (4-4, 2-3) visits Charleroi Saturday.

Charleroi 3, Beth-Center 1

The Cougars climbed into a second-place tie in Class A Section with their third straight win.

Brent Nucci, Zach Hostovich and Chris Esola scored for the Cougars.

"Beth-Center showed up to play and wanted it more," said Charleroi coach George Watkins. "Our guys finally decided to play and we did what we had to do to win."

Charleroi (6-2, 3-1) hosts first-place Carlynton Thursday at 4 p.m.

California 3, South Allegheny 2

The Trojans snapped a four-game winless streak in the Class A Section 1 game.

Drew Anderson scored two goals for Cal with Jacob Angelo getting the other goal.

"We had a long practice Monday and hopefully this is a turning point for our program," said California coach Adam Obrnovich. "They have the best player in the section in Dylan Bodkin, and Skylar Boehme marked him the whole game and shut him down."

The Trojans (4-4-1, 2-2-1) resume Thursday at Trinity Christian.

Ringgold 1, Moon 0

The Rams snapped a two-game skid in Class AAA Section 5.

It was the fifth shutout for the Rams (6-2, 1-2), who host front-running Peters Township Thursday.

SPORTS

Penguins forward Jordan Staal, right, shoots past Toronto defenseman Luke Schenn during the first period of Tuesday's pre-season game.

Associated Press



Leafs top Penguins in shootout

TORONTO (AP) — Nazem Kadri tied the score late in the third and then had the winner in the shootout to lift the Toronto Maple Leafs to a 3-2 victory over the Pittsburgh Penguins on Tuesday night.

Viktor Stalberg also scored in regulation for Toronto (4-1-0).

Ryan Bayda and Chris Conner scored for the defending champion Penguins (1-2-2).

Pittsburgh was 68 seconds away from winning the game in regulation, before Kadri snuck in off the wing and buried a rebound over Penguins goalie John Curry to tie it 2-2. It was the longshot rookie's second goal of the preseason.

"Hopefully, I'm making the decision hard," Kadri said. "I appreciate (coach) Ron (Wilson) giving me the opportunity to go out there in some big situations. I think it's really building my confidence."

The Penguins were without stars

Sidney Crosby, Evgeni Malkin and Marc-Andre Fleury, dressing just five players who appeared in Game 7 of the Stanley Cup finals.

However, Pittsburgh came out with plenty of energy and got an early jump on the Maple Leafs. The Penguins worked the puck around Toronto's end for a full shift before Bayda lifted a backhand over Vesa Toskala 1:43 into the game.

"We had a puck stop on the goal-line tonight and we had a couple of other good chances," Penguins coach Dan Bylsma said. "That's what you want to see in the preseason, you want to be generating chances and seeing how the team plays in its own zone."

It was a big goal for Boyda, the 28-year-old from Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, who is attending training camp on a tryout after spending eight years in the Carolina Hurricanes organization.

Conner, another bubble player fighting for a spot with the Penguins extended the lead to 2-0 with his second goal of the preseason.

The former Dallas Stars winger found himself with a long breakaway when Leafs defenseman Mike Komisarek pinched in from the point and Conner beat Toskala with a nice backhand deke at 12:48.

The Maple Leafs line of Stalberg, Tyler Bozak and Christian Hanson combined to narrow the score to 2-1. Hanson worked the puck in front of the goal and Stalberg ended up slamming a rebound behind Brent Johnson at 7:33 of the second period.

The trio of rookies have all shown potential in the pre-season, but there might not end up being room for any of them on the roster.

The Maple Leafs are still carrying 36 players and will need to get down to 23 before hosting Montreal in the season-opener on Oct. 1.

Burress begins jail sentence

Receiver could be free in the spring of 2011.

NEW YORK (AP) — Former Super Bowl hero Plaxico Burress apologized to his family and tearfully kissed his pregnant wife and young son goodbye Tuesday before he was led away to prison to begin serving a two-year sentence on a weapons charge.

Burress, at the time a star receiver with the New York Giants, was at the Latin Quarter nightclub in Manhattan last November when a gun tucked into his waistband slipped down his leg and fired, wounding him in the thigh.

The accidental shooting enraged New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg, who publicly castigated Burress for carrying his .40-caliber weapon.

Burress arrived in the courtroom Tuesday wearing jeans and a long-sleeved T-shirt, a stark contrast to the dark blue suit he wore last month when he entered his guilty plea.

He was accompanied by his pregnant wife, Tiffany; his 2-year-old son, Elijah; his father, grandmother and stepmother.

Burress told Judge Michael Melkonian before sentencing: "I want to apologize to my family." They did not speak to reporters as they left the courthouse.

With time off for good behavior, Burress likely will serve 20 months. He could be released from prison as early as the spring of 2011 and will be monitored an additional two years after he is freed.

Michael Strahan, a former Giants teammate who is now an NFL television analyst, used his Twitter account to support Burress:



"My Thoughts and Prayers are with my man Plaxico and his family today!!!"

Burress

linebacker Antonio

Pierce, who was with Burress the night of the incident, and former Giants linebacker Kawika Mitchell, now with the Buffalo Bills, re-tweeted the Strahan comment.

The Giants, through spokesman Pat Hanlon, said, "This has been a tragic, sad, disappointing situation from the beginning. Our concern has always been for Plax's welfare, and for his family, and that continues to be our overriding feeling."

Burress hired a consultant to teach him how to use his time in prison productively.

Burress' big moment with the Giants came when he caught the winning touchdown over the previously undefeated New England Patriots in the final minute of the 2008 Super Bowl.

The Giants released Burress in April, but the 32-year-old told ESPN he hopes to resume his NFL career when he completes his sentence.

"When I get out, I'll be 33, not 43," Burress said in an interview broadcast in August. "I'll still be able to run and catch. I'll still have the God-given ability to snag footballs; that's what I love to do. Of course, I want to play again."

Gil Brandt, an analyst on NFL Sirius Radio and the former head of player personnel for the Dallas Cowboys, said Burress won't be too old for a comeback after he's released.

Steelers (FROM PAGE ONE)

game yesterday, Tomlin said, "I wasn't pleased (with it) because we didn't win, and ultimately that's always going to be the approach that I take. I think the longer that I have this job I'm less concerned about storylines and I'm more concerned simply

about winning."

Tomlin conceded that teams must have balance offensively. He also said running the ball effectively and stopping the run are hallmarks of teams that win consistently.

The Steelers have done well in the latter area,

limiting opponents to just 3 yards per carry.

Whether they will consistently run the ball remains to be seen.

The Steelers still seem to be searching for an identity on offense. And they may be at odds over whether they have morphed into a team

that uses the pass to set up the run, not vice versa.

"I think two weeks in it's too early to place a persona on anyone," Tomlin said. "I think over time it will become obvious what we are, and we're not interested in giving anyone a head's up."

SPORTS DIGEST

California booters drop Indiana, 2-1

The No. 11 California University women's soccer team posted a 2-1 win at No. 23 Indiana Tuesday.

Sophomores Brittany Sullivan and Channing Wimer scored goals for the Vulcans (7-1, 6-1).

Sophomore goalkeeper Paula Jackson made eight saves and allowed one goal, with freshman Kendra Edwards finishing up ad making a save.

Cal is ranked first in the Atlantic Region and IUP (4-2-1, 4-2-1) is third in the region.

The Vulcans resume Saturday with a 4:30 p.m. match at Shippensburg.

California netters down Ashland, 7-2

California University's tennis team upped its fall record to 3-0 with a 7-2 win over Ashland Tuesday.

Winning for the Vulcans were Alina Stanila, Anastasiya Zherdeva, Galina Vishnikina and Mariana Oliveira in singles, and the doubles teams of Stanila and Axelle Fernandez, Zherdeva and Vishnikina and Oliveira and Laurie Navarro.

Cal goes to Bloomsburg Saturday for the ITA East Regional.

BV Area cagers top Brownsville

Belle Vernon Area Middle School's basketball team downed Brownsville, 29-9.

Tiernie Singleton and Megan Staley were high scorers for the Little Lady Leps (5-1, 4-0) with six and five points, respectively.

BVA volleyballers lose to Indiana

Belle Vernon Area High's volleyball team was a 3-0 loser to Indiana Tuesday.

With 10 service points, Mary Beth Spang

looked best for BVA in 25-18, 25-11 and 25-9 defeats.

Emily Caldwell had four kills with Cerria Vasquez getting two aces and Justina Szakal two blocks.

Charleroi rolls over Monessen

Charleroi Middle School's basketball team downed Monessen, 40-20.

Yankees wrap up playoff spot

ANAHEIM, Calif. (AP) — The Yankees were in no position to celebrate when the Texas Rangers' loss to Oakland clinched New York's return to the postseason. Brett Gardner and his teammates were too busy blowing a five-run lead over the Angels at the time.

A ninth-inning rally keyed by a player with no postseason resume made certain the Yankees didn't back through a door that was slammed in their faces last fall.

Gardner singled, stole second base on a pitchout and scored the tiebreaking run on Alex Rodriguez's sacrifice fly in the ninth, and the Yankees secured their 14th playoff appearance in 15 seasons Tuesday night with a 6-5 victory over Los Angeles.

Rodriguez homered and drove in three runs before Mariano Rivera earned his 41st save for the Yankees, who were guaranteed a return to the postseason about 55 minutes before the last out in Anaheim when the Athletics finished Texas 9-1.

"You always want to get something like this by shaking hands at the end of it," Rodriguez said. "(No big) celebration, just shaking hands with the guys and giving a few hugs. It feels good to be in, but we've got a lot of work ahead of us."

Trivia answer

Mike Reid in 1970 and Ki-Jana Carter in 1995.

STANLEY'S SUMMER

TRIB TOTAL MEDIA

PHOTO OF SIDNEY CROSBY AND THE CANADIAN ARMED FORCES FROM PAGE 50 OF "SUMMER WITH STANLEY"

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SPORTS HISTORY

20 Years Ago

Charleroi remained one of five WPIAL Class AA unbeaten with a 14-6 win in the rain over defending Century Conference champion Waynesburg. The Cougars scored on Brad Dei Cas' 32-yard pass to Richard Naccarato and Darrell Harding's 1-yard run.

Craig Fayak kicked an extra point after his 82-yard touchdown run in Belle Vernon Area's 7-6

victory over Keystone Oaks.

Joe Wall ran for 101 yards and three touchdowns and Keith Davis gained 166 yards with an 85-yard score in Monessen's 28-6 romp over Mapletown.

Jason Bender's 35-yard field goal with 27 seconds remaining gave North Hills a 16-14 Quad West win at Ringgold.

Ringgold's Chris Lenhart was the winner in the Washington County

Coaches Cross-County Meet at Mingo Park with a time of 17:11.

10 Years Ago

Rob Maglicic scored three goals as Charleroi downed Jeannette, 8-0, for coach Tom Vilella's 100th win.

Brooke Rebar had three goals and an assist in Charleroi's 6-1 win over Greensburg Central Catholic.

The Pittsburgh Penguins released left wing Bob Errey.

SPORTS

Major League Baseball

NATIONAL LEAGUE				
East Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Philadelphia	88	62	.587	—
Atlanta	81	70	.536	7 1/2
Florida	81	71	.533	8
New York	65	87	.428	24
Washington	51	99	.340	37
Central Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
St. Louis	89	63	.586	—
Chicago	78	72	.520	10
Milwaukee	74	77	.490	14 1/2
Cincinnati	70	81	.464	18 1/2
Houston	70	81	.464	18 1/2
Pittsburgh	56	93	.376	31 1/2
West Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Los Angeles	91	60	.603	—
Colorado	86	65	.570	5
San Francisco	81	70	.536	10
San Diego	69	83	.454	22 1/2
Arizona	66	86	.434	25 1/2

Tuesday's Games
 Philadelphia 9, Florida 3, 1st game
 Cincinnati 10, Pittsburgh 4
 L.A. Dodgers 14, Washington 2
 Atlanta 3, N.Y. Mets 1
 Florida 3, Philadelphia 0, 2nd game
 Chicago Cubs 7, Milwaukee 2
 St. Louis 11, Houston 2
 Colorado 11, San Diego 10
 Arizona 10, San Francisco 8

Today's Games
 Cincinnati (H.Bailey 5-5) at Pittsburgh (K.Hart 4-7), 7:05 p.m.
 L.A. Dodgers (Billingsley 12-10) at Washington (Detwiler 0-6), 7:05 p.m.
 Atlanta (T.Hudson 1-1) at N.Y. Mets (Pelfrey 10-11), 7:10 p.m.
 Philadelphia (Hamels 10-9) at Florida (VanderHart 2-7), 7:10 p.m.
 Chicago Cubs (Samardzija 1-2) at Milwaukee (Narveson 1-0), 8:05 p.m.
 St. Louis (Smoltz 1-1) at Houston (Norris 5-3), 8:05 p.m.
 San Diego (Stauffer 4-7) at Colorado (Marquis 15-11), 8:40 p.m.
 San Francisco (J.Sanchez 6-12) at Arizona (Mulvey 0-1), 10:10 p.m.

AMERICAN LEAGUE				
East Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
x-New York	96	56	.632	—
Boston	89	61	.593	6
Tampa Bay	77	74	.510	18 1/2
Toronto	68	83	.450	27 1/2
Baltimore	60	91	.397	35 1/2
Central Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Detroit	80	70	.533	—
Minnesota	78	73	.517	2 1/2
Chicago	73	79	.480	8
Kansas City	63	88	.417	17 1/2
Cleveland	61	89	.407	19
West Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Los Angeles	90	61	.596	—
Texas	82	68	.547	7 1/2
Seattle	79	72	.523	11
Oakland	72	79	.477	18

Tuesday's Games
 Detroit 3, Cleveland 1
 Toronto 6, Baltimore 5, 11 innings
 Seattle 4, Tampa Bay 3
 Kansas City 5, Boston 1
 Minnesota 8, Chicago White Sox 6
 N.Y. Yankees 6, L.A. Angels 5
 Oakland 9, Texas 1
Today's Games
 N.Y. Yankees (A.Burnett 11-9) at L.A. Angels (Kazmir 9-8), 3:35 p.m.
 Detroit (Porcello 13-9) at Cleveland (Masterson 4-8), 7:05 p.m.
 Baltimore (Guthrie 10-15) at Toronto (Richmond 6-10), 7:07 p.m.
 Seattle (Morrow 1-4) at Tampa Bay (W.Davis 1-1), 7:08 p.m.
 Boston (Beckett 15-6) at Kansas City (Hochevar 7-10), 8:10 p.m.
 Minnesota (Düensing 4-1) at Chicago White Sox (Buehrle 12-9), 8:11 p.m.
 Texas (Tom.Hunter 8-4) at Oakland (Mortensen 2-2), 10:05 p.m.

Pirates boxscore

CINCINNATI												
ab	r	h	b	i	ab	r	h	b	i	ab	r	h
Stubbs ss	5	1	1	0	AMCt of	4	1	2	2			
Janish ss	5	2	1	0	L.Cruz 2b	0	0	0	0			
Votto 1b	4	3	3	1	D.Wyn 2b	4	0	0	0			
BPhillips 2b	5	1	1	2	Bixler 2b-cf	1	0	0	0			
Rolen 3b	5	2	3	3	GJones 1b	5	0	3	0			
Viola p	0	0	0	0	Doumit c	4	0	1	0			
Fisher p	0	0	0	0	Jarmil c	1	0	1	0			
Gomes rf	4	0	2	1	Moss rf	4	1	0	0			
Bruce rf	1	0	1	1	Milledge lf	5	2	3	0			
DMcDn lf	3	0	1	0	NWalker 3b	4	0	1	0			
L.Nix phlf	1	0	0	0	Cedeno ss	4	0	2	1			
RHmdz c	5	1	2	0	Duke p	2	0	0	0			
Cueto p	1	0	0	0	R.Diaz ph	1	0	1	1			
Herrera p	0	0	0	0	Veal p	0	0	0	0			
RRmrz p	0	0	0	0	Btchck p	0	0	0	0			
JFmos ph	1	0	1	1	Hacker p	0	0	0	0			
Rhodes p	0	0	0	0	Pearce ph	0	0	0	0			
Adios 3b	1	0	0	0	Vlasquez p	0	0	0	0			
Totals	41	10	16	9	Totals	39	4	14	4			

PITTSBURGH												
ab	r	h	b	i	ab	r	h	b	i	ab	r	h
Stubbs ss	5	1	1	0	AMCt of	4	1	2	2			
Janish ss	5	2	1	0	L.Cruz 2b	0	0	0	0			
Votto 1b	4	3	3	1	D.Wyn 2b	4	0	0	0			
BPhillips 2b	5	1	1	2	Bixler 2b-cf	1	0	0	0			
Rolen 3b	5	2	3	3	GJones 1b	5	0	3	0			
Viola p	0	0	0	0	Doumit c	4	0	1	0			
Fisher p	0	0	0	0	Jarmil c	1	0	1	0			
Gomes rf	4	0	2	1	Moss rf	4	1	0	0			
Bruce rf	1	0	1	1	Milledge lf	5	2	3	0			
DMcDn lf	3	0	1	0	NWalker 3b	4	0	1	0			
L.Nix phlf	1	0	0	0	Cedeno ss	4	0	2	1			
RHmdz c	5	1	2	0	Duke p	2	0	0	0			
Cueto p	1	0	0	0	R.Diaz ph	1	0	1	1			
Herrera p	0	0	0	0	Veal p	0	0	0	0			
RRmrz p	0	0	0	0	Btchck p	0	0	0	0			
JFmos ph	1	0	1	1	Hacker p	0	0	0	0			
Rhodes p	0	0	0	0	Pearce ph	0	0	0	0			
Adios 3b	1	0	0	0	Vlasquez p	0	0	0	0			
Totals	41	10	16	9	Totals	39	4	14	4			

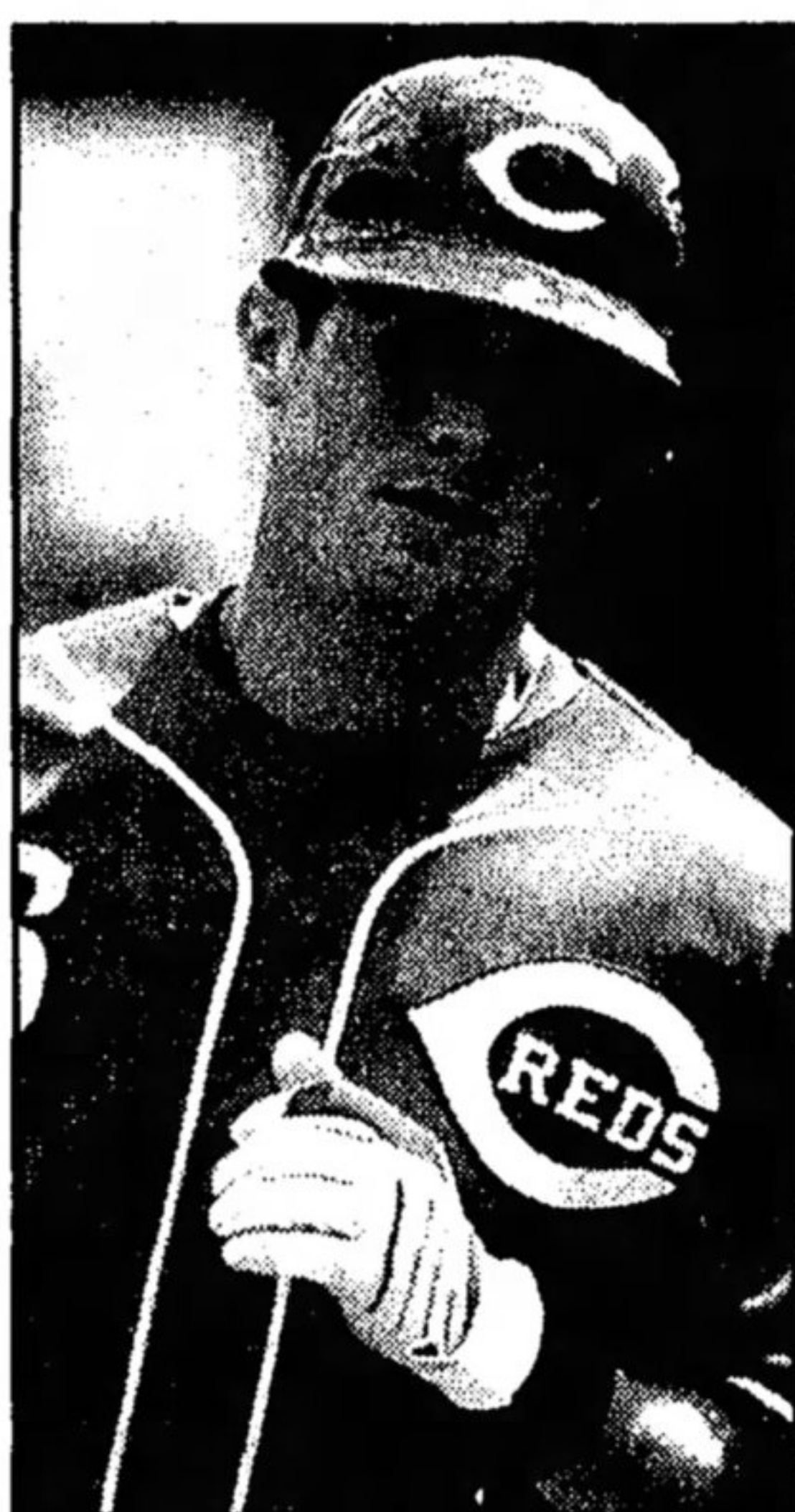
E—Doumit (6). DP—Cincinnati 1. LOB—Cincinnati 9, Pittsburgh 11. 2B—Stubbs (4), Votto 3 (29), Rolen 2 (6), Gomes (14), G.Jones (19), Doumit (15), Milledge (10), Cedeno (4), R.Diaz (7). HR—A.McCutchen (12). SB—B.Phillips (25). S—Cueto 2.

	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
Cincinnati						
Cueto W,10-10	5	9	2	2	0	2
Herrera H,9	1-3	2	1	1	0	0
R.Ramirez H,3	2-3	1	0	0	0	1
Rhodes	1	0	0	0	0	1
Viola	2-3	1	1	1	1	1
Fisher	1-1-3	1	0	0	2	2
Pittsburgh						
Duke L,10-15	6	9	5	5	1	2
Veal	1-3	3	3	3	1	0
Bootcheck	2-3	1	0	0	1	0
Hacker	1	3	2	2	0	0
V.Vasquez	1	0	0	0	0	0

Umpires—Home, Tim Tschida; First, Bob Davidson; Second, Todd Tichenor; Third, James Hoyer.
 T—3:34. A—16,492 (38,362).

WNBA playoffs

SEMIFINALS (Best-of-3)
EASTERN CONFERENCE
Today
 Indiana at Detroit, 8 p.m.
WESTERN CONFERENCE
Today
 Phoenix at Los Angeles, 10 p.m.



Drew Stubbs and the Cincinnati Reds will face the Pirates at 7:05 p.m. on Fox Sports.

Sports dial

Today
Television
 4:30 p.m. - WCAL - High school roundup, football, tape.
 7:05 p.m. - Fox Sports - Cincinnati at Pittsburgh, baseball.
 7:05 p.m. - ESPN - Philadelphia at Florida, baseball.
 8 p.m. - ESPN2 - Indiana at Detroit, women's pro basketball.
 10 p.m. - ESPN2 - Phoenix at Los Angeles, women's pro basketball.
 10:05 p.m. - ESPN - San Francisco at Arizona, baseball.
 10:30 p.m. - WCAL - High school roundup, football, tape.
Radio
 7:05 p.m. - WPGH(104.7 FM) - Cincinnati at Pittsburgh, baseball.

Penguins summary

Pittsburgh 2 0 0 0 - 2
Toronto 0 1 1 0 - 3
Toronto won shootout 2-0
 First Period—4, Toronto, Kadri 1 (Beauchemin, Stalberg), 1:43. 2, Pittsburgh, Conner 2 (Rupp, Goligoski), 12:48. Penalties—Kornisarek, Tor (high-sticking), 3:40; Bayda, Pit (tripping), 10:13; Bissnonette, Pit, major (fighting), 13:15; Rosehill, Tor, major (fighting), 13:15.
 Second Period—3, Toronto, Stalberg 2 (Bozak, Hanson), 7:33. Penalties—McKee, Pit (interference), 2:16; White, Tor (holding), 15:14; Cooke, Pit (unsportsmanlike conduct), 16:09; Staal, Pit, major (fighting), 16:09; Kornisarek, Tor, major (fighting), 16:09; Eaton, Pit (tripping), 18:18.
 Third Period—4, Toronto, Kadri 2 (Beauchemin, Stalberg), 18:52. Penalties—Bissnonette, Pit, major (fighting), 2:37; Beauchemin, Tor, major (fighting), 2:37; Kennedy, Pit (hooking), 10:11; Gunnarsson, Tor (holding), 11:48; Eaton, Pit (hooking), 15:53.
 Overtime—None. Penalties—None.
 Shootout—Pittsburgh 0 (Staal NG, Conner NG), Toronto 2 (Kadri G, Bozak NG, Stempelak G).
 Shots—Pittsburgh 9-8-9-2-28. Toronto 5-10-16-1-32.
 Power-play—Pittsburgh 0 of 3; Toronto 0 of 6.
 Goals—Pittsburgh, B.Johnson (15 shots-14 saves), Curry 0-1-1 (0:00 third, 17:16). Toronto, Toskala 2-0-0 (28:26).
 Att—18,910 (18,819). T—2:40.
 Referees—Chris Ciamaglia, Stephen Walkom. Linesmen—Scott Driscoll, Mark Pare.

NHL preseason

Tuesday's Games
 Toronto 3, Pittsburgh 2, SO
 Columbus 6, Boston 5, SO
 Philadelphia 5, Detroit 2
 Los Angeles 4, N.Y. Islanders 2
 Florida 3, Dallas 1
 Tampa Bay 2, Phoenix 1
Today's Games
 Toronto at Buffalo, 7 p.m.
 New Jersey at N.Y. Islanders, 7 p.m.
 Chicago at Washington, 7 p.m.
 Nashville at Atlanta, 7 p.m.
 Dallas at Florida, 7:30 p.m.
 Phoenix vs. Tampa Bay at Loveland, Colo., 9 p.m.
 Calgary at Edmonton, 9 p.m.
 Los Angeles at Colorado, 9 p.m.
 San Jose at Vancouver, 10 p.m.

Area golf

At Willowbrook
Belle Vernon Area - 186
 Kyle Naden, Tyler Lustig and Bo Lustig, 36; Kirby Manown and Brad Antal, 39. Non-count: Brian Solits, 48.
Connellsville - 237
 Johnny Leonard, 39; Eric Herrer, 42; Tyler Stillwagon, 50; Tyler Broadwater, 51; Luke Giles, 55. Non-count: Justin Teets, 56.
At Timber Ridge
Ringgold - 225
 Mike Yavorsky and Connor Kane, 42; Colin McCormick, 44; Rico Rodriguez, 47; Nick Feld, 50. Non-count: Devin DiPiazza, 56.
S'moreland - 252
 Chip Smith, 44; Daniel Wright, 45; Nick Wells, 48; Joe Martin, 54; Cory Nicklow, 61.
At Foxwood Acres
Bentworth - 213
 Kyle Kubovick, 39; Garrett Damich, 40; Clay Roman, 43; Marko Kochis, 45; Ty Bell, 46.
Frazier - 223
 Tyler Rock, 42; Nick Hawranko, 43; Robert G.ondura, DJ Hudik and Eddie Miller, 46.
At Rohanna Golf Club
California - 195
 Nick Roberts, 34; Dave Beck and Dom Roach, 37; Zac Edmiston, 43; Phil Langley, 44.
Waynesburg - 196
 Matt King, 35; Ben Virgin and Rick Kalsey, 39; Aaron Haywood, 41; Loren Dukate, 42.

Frontier League finals

Best of 5
 Series tied at 2-2
Today
 Lake Erie at River City, 8:05 p.m.

Boys' soccer standings

Class AAA						
Section 5						
	League			Overall		
	W	L	T	W	L	T
Peters Township	3	0	0	4	1	1
Canon-McMillan	2	1	0	6	1	0
Upper St. Clair	2	1	0	5	1	1
Ringgold	1	2	0	6	2	0
Moon	1	2	0	2	3	1
Trinity	0	3	0	2	7	0
Tuesday						
Ringgold 1, Moon 0						
Peters Township 7, Trinity 0						
Upper St. Clair 1, Canon-McMillan 0						
Thursday						
Peters Township at Ringgold						
Moon at Canon-McMillan						
Trinity at Upper St. Clair						
Class AA						
Section 3						
	Sec.			Overall		
	W	L	T	W	L	T
South Park	5	0	0	6	1	0
S'moreland	4	1	0	4	3	0
Belle Vernon Area	3	1	1	6	2	1
Thomas Jefferson	3	1	1	4	3	1
Elizabeth Forward	2	3	0	4	5	0
Steel Valley	1	4	0	2	5	0
Uniontown	1	4	0	1	6	0
Yough	0	5	0	0	5	0

COMICS

CATHY® by Cathy Guisewite



ARLO and JANIS® by Jimmy Johnson



BEETLE BAILEY® by Mort Walker



GRIZZWELLS® by Bill Schorr



FRANK and ERNEST® by Bob Thaves



SOUP TO NUTZ™ by Rick Stromoski



TV LISTINGS

Woman's shocking discovery puts man in unmarked grave

DEAR ABBY: For 15 years I was a happily married homemaker with a wonderful husband. "Duncan" and I attended church together and frolicked through the fields. He was my best friend. It was bliss.

Last year I found out my father had had an affair with Duncan's mother the year I was born, which makes him my half-brother. The news was too much for my husband. He had a fatal heart attack not long after.

What should I put on his gravestone — "Loving Brother" or "Loving Husband"? — **GRIEVING IN MASSACHUSETTS**

DEAR GRIEVING: Neither. How about "He was 'Everything' to me"?

That should about cover it.

Dear **ABBY**



DEAR ABBY: I'm in a relationship with a man I met online who lives out of state. He has been to see me a dozen times over the last three years. We say we love each other and want to spend the rest of our lives together.

But over the last 18 months I have realized we have nothing in common — and our views on life, policy and politics are completely opposite.

For three years we have talked every single day, mostly about how much we

love each other. It's when we try to have a real conversation we start to disagree. He says we're entitled to our own opinions, and I agree, but I can't help but wonder what kind of future we could have together when we cannot discuss anything but how we feel about each other. — **SECOND THOUGHTS IN ANAHEIM**

DEAR SECOND THOUGHTS: It's a shame you two can't spend some extended time together because the answer to your question would become evident. From where I sit, I think there would be conflict on a daily basis regardless of how much you "love" each other. I put the word love in quotes because love is something that grows from mutual

respect, and I'm not sure how long you would remain mutually respectful in light of the fact your worldviews are completely different.

DEAR ABBY: My father died two years ago and asked that I administer my mother's finances. She has now burned through two-thirds of the savings he left her, and she refuses to accept any advice I have tried to give her about her spending.

I have told my mother repeatedly that I do not have the resources to take care of her when she runs out of money. I know she assumes that I will because she is my mother.

How do I deal with a parent who is narcissistic and out of touch with reality? I have told her I'll gladly hand over her finances to

my brother, but she doesn't want him to get involved. I have asked him for advice, but he won't respond.

Do I just let her go through everything and struggle in the end, or stick to my guns? After all, it's her money and I can't refuse to make it available to her. Please advise. — **MOTHER'S KEEPER IN SAN DIEGO**

DEAR MOTHER'S KEEPER: I suspect your brother is acting the way he is because he's miffed at not being asked to handle the finances to begin with, or he simply wants to stay out of it. But you cannot allow your mother to continue spending her inheritance at the rate she is. Consult the attorney who drafted your father's will and ask if there's a way to

(Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.)

Abby shares more than 100 of her favorite recipes in two booklets: "Abby's Favorite Recipes" and "More Favorite Recipes by Dear Abby." Send a business-size, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for \$12 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby — Cookbooklet Set, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447.

WEDNESDAY EVENING

SEPTEMBER 23, 2009

	6PM	6:30 / 7PM	7:30	8PM	8:30	9PM	9:30	10PM	10:30	11PM	11:30	12AM	12:30	1AM	1:30	2AM	2:30
CBS	(2) KDKA-TV News at Six (7) News (10) WTAJ News at 6	(7) CBS Evening News-Couric (N)	(2) CBS Evening News-Couric (7) Entertainment 10 Inside	(2) The Insider (N) (7) Inside Edition (N) (10) Two and a Half Men	The New Adventures of Old Christine Trying to help Barb.	Gary Unmarried "Gary Has a Dream" Gary tries to set an example.	Criminal Minds "Nameless, Faceless" (Season Premiere) A killer targets an emergency room doctor. (N)	CSI: NY "Epilogue" (Season Premiere) A team member's life changes drastically. (N)	(2) KDKA-TV News at 11 (7) News (10) WTAJ News at 11	(35) Late Show With David Letterman Simon Baker; Mary J. Blige. (N)	(37) The Late Late Show With Craig Ferguson Jennifer Love Hewitt; Ken Tucker. (N)	(37) Extra (37) The Dr. Oz Show (10) (37) Paid Programming	(37) Extra (37) The Dr. Oz Show (10) (37) Paid Programming	(37) Extra (37) The Dr. Oz Show (10) (37) Paid Programming	(37) Extra (37) The Dr. Oz Show (10) (37) Paid Programming	(37) Extra (37) The Dr. Oz Show (10) (37) Paid Programming	(37) Extra (37) The Dr. Oz Show (10) (37) Paid Programming
ABC	(4) Action News at 6 (23) Deal No	ABC's World News With Charles Gibson (N)	(4) Channel 4 Action News G20 Special (23) Jeopardy!	(4) Entertainment Tonight (23) Wheel of Fortune	Dancing With the Stars A tribute to the late Patrick Swayze; two celebrities are eliminated. (Live)	Mercy "Can We Get That Drink Now?" (Series Premiere) Veronica is caught off-guard by the hospital's new doctor. (N)	Modern Family "Pilot" (Series Premiere) (N)	Cougar Town A recent divorcee tackles dating. (N)	Eastwick "Pilot" Three women discover bewitching talents they never knew they had. (N)	(4) Ch. 4 Action News at 11 (23) News	(35) Nightline (N)	(12:06) Jimmy Kimmel Live (N)	(4) (06) Kimmel Live (23) (06) Paid Programming	(4) (06) Kimmel Live (23) (06) Paid Programming	(4) (06) Kimmel Live (23) (06) Paid Programming	(4) (06) Kimmel Live (23) (06) Paid Programming	(4) (06) Kimmel Live (23) (06) Paid Programming
NBC	(6) WJAC-TV News at 6 PM (N) (9) News (N) (11) Channel 11 News (N)	NBC Nightly News (N)	(6) Entertainment Tonight (N) (9) Jeopardy! (N)	(6) Who Wants to Be a Millionaire (N) (9) Wheel of Fortune	Mercy "Can We Get That Drink Now?" (Series Premiere) Veronica is caught off-guard by the hospital's new doctor. (N)	Law & Order: Special Victims Unit "Unstable" (Season Premiere) Officer Nate Kendall gets roped into investigating a rape case. (N)	The Jay Leno Show Vince Vaughn; Al Michaels and Bob Costas. (N)	(6) WJAC-TV News (N) (9) News (11) News	(35) The Tonight Show With Conan O'Brien Martin Short; Tim Gunn; Wynonna. (N)	(37) Late Night With Jimmy Fallon Amy Poehler; Dan Fogler; Parkour athletes. (N)	(37) Extra (37) The Dr. Oz Show (10) (37) Paid Programming	(37) Extra (37) The Dr. Oz Show (10) (37) Paid Programming	(37) Extra (37) The Dr. Oz Show (10) (37) Paid Programming	(37) Extra (37) The Dr. Oz Show (10) (37) Paid Programming	(37) Extra (37) The Dr. Oz Show (10) (37) Paid Programming	(37) Extra (37) The Dr. Oz Show (10) (37) Paid Programming	(37) Extra (37) The Dr. Oz Show (10) (37) Paid Programming
FOX	(8) WWCP (9) WPGH	(8) The Simpsons (9) My Name Is Earl	(8) That '70s Show (9) My Name Is Earl	(8) My Name Is Earl (9) Seinfeld	So You Think You Can Dance Auditions continue. (N)	Glee "Preggers" Kurt tries out for the football team. (N)	(8) News (9) Channel 11 News	(8) (35) My Name Is Earl	(8) (05) Everybody Loves Raymond (9) Seinfeld	(8) Star Trek: The Next Generation (9) Frasier	(8) Star Trek: The Next Generation (9) Frasier	(8) Star Trek: The Next Generation (9) Frasier	(8) Star Trek: The Next Generation (9) Frasier	(8) Star Trek: The Next Generation (9) Frasier	(8) Star Trek: The Next Generation (9) Frasier	(8) Star Trek: The Next Generation (9) Frasier	(8) Star Trek: The Next Generation (9) Frasier
WBQD	The NewsHour With Jim Lehrer (N)	Nightly Business Report	OnQ	OnQ	Great Lodges of the National Parks	Great Lodges of the National Parks	Great Lodges of the National Parks	Wallace Stegner (N)	Charlie Rose (N)	OnQ	Smart Travels	Great Lodges of the National Parks	Great Lodges of the National Parks	Great Lodges of the National Parks	Great Lodges of the National Parks	Great Lodges of the National Parks	Great Lodges of the National Parks
WPCW	The People's Court (N)	The Office	The Office "The Coup"	The Office "The Coup"	America's Next Top Model "Make Me Tall" (N)	The Beautiful Life: TBL "The Beautiful Aftermath"	10 O'Clock News	The Nightly Sports Call	Everybody Loves Raymond	Malcolm in the Middle	According to Jim	King of the Hill	South Park	Mike Tomlin Show	Paid Programming	Paid Programming	Paid Programming
WPMY	Simpsons	Family Guy	Simpsons	Family Guy	World's Funniest Moments	World's Funniest Moments	Magical Secrets	Law & Order: SVU	Star Trek: Next Gener.	Nwswatch	The Place for Miracles	Paid Prog.	Paid Prog.	Paid Prog.	Paid Prog.	Paid Prog.	Paid Prog.
WPCB	The 700 Club	Focus 4 Special Edition Economic summit.	Focus 4 Special Edition Economic summit.	Focus 4 Special Edition Economic summit.	The FBI Files	The FBI Files	Laguna	RENO 911!	The FBI Files	Cheaters	Laguna	Paid Prog.	Paid Prog.	Paid Prog.	Paid Prog.	Paid Prog.	Paid Prog.
WBGH	Punk'd	Sports Talk	Sports Talk	Sports Talk	The FBI Files	The FBI Files	Laguna	RENO 911!	The FBI Files	Cheaters	Laguna	Paid Prog.	Paid Prog.	Paid Prog.	Paid Prog.	Paid Prog.	Paid Prog.
A&E	CSI: Miami "Dead Zone"	Criminal Minds "The Tribe"	Dog the Bounty Hunter	Dog the Bounty Hunter	Dog the Bounty Hunter	Dog the Bounty Hunter	Dog the Bounty Hunter	Dog the Bounty Hunter	Dog the Bounty Hunter	Criss Angel Mindfreak	Dog the Bounty Hunter	Dog the Bounty Hunter	Dog the Bounty Hunter	Dog the Bounty Hunter	Dog the Bounty Hunter	Dog the Bounty Hunter	Dog the Bounty Hunter
ABCAM	Fresh Prince	Fresh Prince	70s Show	70s Show	70s Show	70s Show	70s Show	70s Show	70s Show	America's Funniest Home	America's Funniest Home	America's Funniest Home	America's Funniest Home	America's Funniest Home	America's Funniest Home	America's Funniest Home	America's Funniest Home
AMC	(5:30) *** "Lethal Weapon 3"	(1992) Mel Gibson.	*** "Batman Begins" (2005)	*** "Batman Begins" (2005)	*** "Batman Begins" (2005)	*** "Batman Begins" (2005)	*** "Batman Begins" (2005)	*** "Batman Begins" (2005)	*** "Batman Begins" (2005)	*** "Catwoman" (2004) Halle Berry, Benjamin Bratt.	*** "Catwoman" (2004) Halle Berry, Benjamin Bratt.	*** "Catwoman" (2004) Halle Berry, Benjamin Bratt.	*** "Catwoman" (2004) Halle Berry, Benjamin Bratt.	*** "Catwoman" (2004) Halle Berry, Benjamin Bratt.	*** "Catwoman" (2004) Halle Berry, Benjamin Bratt.	*** "Catwoman" (2004) Halle Berry, Benjamin Bratt.	*** "Catwoman" (2004) Halle Berry, Benjamin Bratt.
ANPL	Weird, True & Freaky	Dogs 101	Untamed and Uncut	Untamed and Uncut	Untamed and Uncut	Untamed and Uncut	Untamed and Uncut	Untamed and Uncut	Untamed and Uncut	I Shouldn't Be Alive	I Shouldn't Be Alive	I Shouldn't Be Alive	I Shouldn't Be Alive	I Shouldn't Be Alive	I Shouldn't Be Alive	I Shouldn't Be Alive	I Shouldn't Be Alive
BBC	Kitchen Nightmares	Kitchen Nightmares	Ramsay's Kitchen	Ramsay's Kitchen	Ramsay's Kitchen	Ramsay's Kitchen	Ramsay's Kitchen	Ramsay's Kitchen	Ramsay's Kitchen	Ramsay's Kitchen	Ramsay's Kitchen	Ramsay's Kitchen	Ramsay's Kitchen	Ramsay's Kitchen	Ramsay's Kitchen	Ramsay's Kitchen	Ramsay's Kitchen
BET	106 & Park: BET's Top 10 Live (Live)	*** "Menace II Society" (1993) Tyrin Turner.	*** "Menace II Society" (1993) Tyrin Turner.	*** "Menace II Society" (1993) Tyrin Turner.	*** "Menace II Society" (1993) Tyrin Turner.	*** "Menace II Society" (1993) Tyrin Turner.	*** "Menace II Society" (1993) Tyrin Turner.	*** "Menace II Society" (1993) Tyrin Turner.	*** "Menace II Society" (1993) Tyrin Turner.	*** "Menace II Society" (1993) Tyrin Turner.	*** "Menace II Society" (1993) Tyrin Turner.	*** "Menace II Society" (1993) Tyrin Turner.	*** "Menace II Society" (1993) Tyrin Turner.	*** "Menace II Society" (1993) Tyrin Turner.	*** "Menace II Society" (1993) Tyrin Turner.	*** "Menace II Society" (1993) Tyrin Turner.	*** "Menace II Society" (1993) Tyrin Turner.
BRAVO	Top Chef: Las Vegas	Top Chef: Las Vegas	Top Chef: Las Vegas	Top Chef: Las Vegas	Top Chef: Las Vegas	Top Chef: Las Vegas	Top Chef: Las Vegas	Top Chef: Las Vegas	Top Chef: Las Vegas	Top Chef: Las Vegas	Top Chef: Las Vegas	Top Chef: Las Vegas	Top Chef: Las Vegas	Top Chef: Las Vegas	Top Chef: Las Vegas	Top Chef: Las Vegas	Top Chef: Las Vegas
CMT	Extreme Makeover: Home	Extreme Makeover: Home	Smarter	Smarter	Smarter	Smarter	Smarter	Smarter	Smarter	CMT Music	Smarter	Smarter	Smarter	Smarter	Smarter	Smarter	Smarter
CNBC	Mad Money	Kudlow Report	Mad Money	Mad Money	Mad Money	Mad Money	Mad Money	Mad Money	Mad Money	Mad Money	Mad Money	Mad Money	Mad Money	Mad Money	Mad Money	Mad Money	Mad Money
CNN	Situation Room-Wolf Blitzer	Lou Dobbs Tonight	Campbell Brown (N)	Larry King Live (N)	Larry King Live (N)	Larry King Live (N)	Larry King Live (N)	Larry King Live (N)	Larry King Live (N)	Anderson Cooper 360	Anderson Cooper 360	Anderson Cooper 360	Anderson Cooper 360	Anderson Cooper 360	Anderson Cooper 360	Anderson Cooper 360	Anderson Cooper 360
COM	RENO 911!	Presents	Daily Show	Colbert	Scrubs	Scrubs	Futurama	Futurama	South Park	South Park	Daily Show	Colbert	South Park	Drawn Toget	Futurama	Daily Show	Colbert
CSAN	(5:00) House of Representatives	MythBusters	MythBusters	MythBusters	MythBusters	MythBusters	MythBusters	MythBusters	MythBusters	Capital News Today	MythBusters	MythBusters	MythBusters	MythBusters	MythBusters	MythBusters	MythBusters
DISC	Cash Cab	Cash Cab	MythBusters	MythBusters	MythBusters	MythBusters	MythBusters	MythBusters	MythBusters	MythBusters	MythBusters	MythBusters	MythBusters	MythBusters	MythBusters	MythBusters	MythBusters
DISNEY	Phineas-Ferb	Zack & Cody	Wizards	Wizards	Wizards	Wizards	Wizards	Wizards	Wizards	Phineas-Ferb	Phineas-Ferb	Phineas-Ferb	Phineas-Ferb	Phineas-Ferb	Phineas-Ferb	Phineas-Ferb	Phineas-Ferb
EI	Kourtney	Take Miami	El News (N)	The Daily 10	*** "Never Been Kissed" (1999) Drew Barrymore.	*** "Never Been Kissed" (1999) Drew Barrymore.	*** "Never Been Kissed" (1999) Drew Barrymore.	*** "Never Been Kissed" (1999) Drew Barrymore.	*** "Never Been Kissed" (1999) Drew Barrymore.	*** "Never Been Kissed" (1999) Drew Barrymore.	*** "Never Been Kissed" (1999) Drew Barrymore.	*** "Never Been Kissed" (1999) Drew Barrymore.	*** "Never Been Kissed" (1999) Drew Barrymore.	*** "Never Been Kissed" (1999) Drew Barrymore.	*** "Never Been Kissed" (1999) Drew Barrymore.	*** "Never Been Kissed" (1999) Drew Barrymore.	*** "Never Been Kissed" (1999) Drew Barrymore.
ESPN	SportsCenter (Live)	MLB Baseball Philadelphia Phillies at Florida Marlins. Land Shark Stadium in Miami.	MLB Baseball Philadelphia Phillies at Florida Marlins. Land Shark Stadium in Miami.	MLB Baseball Philadelphia Phillies at Florida Marlins. Land Shark Stadium in Miami.	MLB Baseball Philadelphia Phillies at Florida Marlins. Land Shark Stadium in Miami.	MLB Baseball Philadelphia Phillies at Florida Marlins. Land Shark Stadium in Miami.	MLB Baseball Philadelphia Phillies at Florida Marlins. Land Shark Stadium in Miami.	MLB Baseball Philadelphia Phillies at Florida Marlins. Land Shark Stadium in Miami.	MLB Baseball Philadelphia Phillies at Florida Marlins. Land Shark Stadium in Miami.	MLB Baseball San Francisco Giants at Arizona Diamondbacks. (Subject to Blackout)	MLB Baseball San Francisco Giants at Arizona Diamondbacks. (Subject to Blackout)	MLB Baseball San Francisco Giants at Arizona Diamondbacks. (Subject to Blackout)	MLB Baseball San Francisco Giants at Arizona Diamondbacks. (Subject to Blackout)	MLB Baseball San Francisco Giants at Arizona Diamondbacks. (Subject to Blackout)	MLB Baseball San Francisco Giants at Arizona Diamondbacks. (Subject to Blackout)	MLB Baseball San Francisco Giants at Arizona Diamondbacks. (Subject to Blackout)	MLB Baseball San Francisco Giants at Arizona Diamondbacks. (Subject to Blackout)
ESPN2	College Football	Can't Blame	Can't Blame	Can't Blame	Can't Blame	Can't Blame	Can't Blame	Can't Blame	Can't Blame	Boxing	Boxing	Boxing	Boxing	Boxing	Boxing	Boxing	Boxing
ESPN2	Horn	Interruption	Football Live	NFL Live	WNBA Basketball: Eastern Conference Final Game 1	WNBA Basketball: Eastern Conference Final Game 1	WNBA Basketball: Eastern Conference Final Game 1	WNBA Basketball: Eastern Conference Final Game 1	WNBA Basketball: Eastern Conference Final Game 1	WNBA Basketball: Western Conference Final Game 1	WNBA Basketball: Western Conference Final Game 1	WNBA Basketball: Western Conference Final Game 1	WNBA Basketball: Western Conference Final Game 1	WNBA Basketball: Western Conference Final Game 1	WNBA Basketball: Western Conference Final Game 1	WNBA Basketball: Western Conference Final Game 1	WNBA Basketball: Western Conference Final Game 1
EWTN	Catholic	Faith-Hope	Daily Mass: Our Lady	Daily Mass: Our Lady	EWTN Live	EWTN Live	EWTN Live	EWTN Live	EWTN Live	A Celebration of Padre Pio	Faith-Culture	Heritage	Daily Mass: Our Lady	EWTN Live	EWTN Live	EWTN Live	EWTN Live
FNC	Special Report	FOX Report-Shepard Smith	The O'Reilly Factor (N)	Hannity (N)	The O'Reilly Factor (N)	Hannity (N)	The O'Reilly Factor (N)	Hannity (N)	The O'Reilly Factor (N)	On the Record	The O'Reilly Factor	Hannity	On the Record	On the Record	On the Record	On the Record	On the Record
FOOD	Cooking	Minute	Challenge	Challenge	Unwrapped Cookies.	Unwrapped Cookies.	Unwrapped Cookies.	Unwrapped Cookies.	Unwrapped Cookies.	Good Eats	Unwrapped	Bobby Flay	Bobby Flay	Bobby Flay	Bobby Flay	Bobby Flay	Bobby Flay
FSN	Steelers	Pregame	MLB Baseball Cincinnati Reds at Pittsburgh Pirates. From PNC Park in Pittsburgh.	Pittsburgh Pirates. From PNC Park in Pittsburgh.	Pittsburgh Pirates. From PNC Park in Pittsburgh.	Pittsburgh Pirates. From PNC Park in Pittsburgh.	Pittsburgh Pirates. From PNC Park in Pittsburgh.	Pittsburgh Pirates. From PNC Park in Pittsburgh.	Pittsburgh Pirates. From PNC Park in Pittsburgh.	Pirates Post.	Final Score	MLB Baseball Cincinnati Reds at Pittsburgh Pirates.	Final Score	Final Score	Final Score	Final Score	Final Score
FX	*** "Next" (2007) Nicolas Cage, Julianne Moore.	*** "Jarhead" (2005) Jake Gyllenhaal, Peter Sarsgaard.	*** "Jarhead" (2005) Jake Gyllenhaal, Peter Sarsgaard.	*** "Jarhead" (2005) Jake Gyllenhaal, Peter Sarsgaard.	*** "Jarhead" (2005) Jake Gyllenhaal, Peter Sarsgaard.	*** "Jarhead" (2005) Jake Gyllenhaal, Peter Sarsgaard.	*** "Jarhead" (2005) Jake Gyllenhaal, Peter Sarsgaard.	*** "Jarhead" (2005) Jake Gyllenhaal, Peter Sarsgaard.	*** "Jarhead" (2005) Jake Gyllenhaal, Peter Sarsgaard.	*** "Jarhead" (2005) Jake Gyllenhaal, Peter Sarsgaard.	*** "Jarhead" (2005) Jake Gyllenhaal, Peter Sarsgaard.	*** "Jarhead" (2005) Jake Gyllenhaal, Peter Sarsgaard.	*** "Jarhead" (2005) Jake Gyllenhaal, Peter Sarsgaard.	*** "Jarhead" (2005) Jake Gyllenhaal, Peter Sarsgaard.	*** "Jarhead" (2005) Jake Gyllenhaal, Peter Sarsgaard.	*** "Jarhead" (2005) Jake Gyllenhaal, Peter Sarsgaard.	*** "Jarhead" (2005) Jake Gyllenhaal, Peter Sarsgaard.
GOLF	Golf Central	Top 10	The Golf Fix	Golf Videos	19th Hole (N)	Top 10	Golf	Golf	Golf	Tour Championship	19th Hole	Golf Central	Golf	Golf	Golf	Golf	Golf
GSN	Newlywed	Catch 21	Deal or No Deal	Family Feud	Family Feud	Family Feud	Family Feud	Family Feud	Family Feud	Millionaire	Lingo	Deal or No Deal	Be a Millionaire	Jeopardy!	Hollywood	Pyramid	Pyramid
HALL	M*A*S*H	M*A*S*H	M*A*S*H	M*A*S*H	M*A*S*H	M*A*S*H	M*A*S*H	M*A*S*H	M*A*S*H	Golden Girls	Golden Girls	Golden Girls	Golden Girls	Golden Girls	Golden Girls	Golden Girls	Golden Girls
HGTV	To Sell	Beyond Box	House	House	Property	Property	House	Income Prop.	House	Renovation	Big Amazing	First Place	Property	Property	House	Income Prop.	House
HIST	Barbarians Vikings.	To Be Announced	MonsterQuest	MonsterQuest	Nostradamus Effect (N)	MysteryQuest (N)	MysteryQuest (N)	MysteryQuest (N)	MysteryQuest (N)	Will & Grace	Will & Grace	Will & Grace	Will & Grace	Will & Grace	Will & Grace	Will & Grace	Will & Grace
LIFE	Grey's Anatomy	Medium	Countdown-Olbermann	Countdown-Olbermann	Countdown-Olbermann	Countdown-Olbermann	Countdown-Olbermann	Countdown-Olbermann	Countdown-Olbermann	The Rachel Maddow Show	Countdown-Olbermann	The Rachel Maddow Show	Hardball	Countdown-Olbermann	The Rachel Maddow Show	The Rachel Maddow Show	The Rachel Maddow Show
MSNBC	The Ed Show (N)	Hardball	Countdown-Olbermann	Countdown-Olbermann	Countdown-Olbermann	Countdown-Olbermann	Countdown-Olbermann	Countdown-Olbermann	Countdown-Olbermann	The Rachel Maddow Show	Countdown-Olbermann	The Rachel Maddow Show	Hardball	Countdown-Olbermann	The Rachel Maddow Show	The Rachel Maddow Show	The Rachel Maddow Show
MTV	Parental	The Hills	True Life	True Life	True Life	True Life	True Life	True Life	True Life	Hates Chris	Hates Chris	Hates Chris	True Life	The Hills	Really Going	Really Going	Really Going
NICK	iCarly	Jackson	SpongeBob	SpongeBob	Malcolm	Malcolm	Lopez	Lopez	Lopez	The Nanny	The Nanny	Malcolm	Malcolm	Malcolm	Lopez	Hates Chris	Hates Chris
OXY	Living Single	Living Single	Naughty Kitchen	Naughty Kitchen	*** "Two Weeks Notice" (2002) Sandra Bullock.	*** "Two Weeks Notice" (2002) Sandra Bullock.	*** "Two Weeks Notice" (2002) Sandra Bullock.	*** "Two Weeks Notice" (2002) Sandra Bullock.	*** "Two Weeks Notice" (2002) Sandra Bullock.	PCN Late Night - pcutv.com	PCN Late Night - pcutv.com	PCN Late Night - pcutv.com	PCN Late Night - pcutv.com	PCN Late Night - pcutv.com	PCN Late Night - pcutv.com	PCN Late Night - pcutv.com	PCN Late Night - pcutv.com
PCN	PCN Tours "UTZ Snacks"	PCN Call-In James Cawley.	News	Psychiatric	NightTalk	NightTalk	PCNC News	NightTalk	NightTalk	Pittsburgh	Fedko Fone	PCNC News	PCNC News	PCNC News	PCNC News	PCNC News	PCNC News
PCNC	Pittsburgh Now	News	Psychiatric	NightTalk	NightTalk	NightTalk	PCNC News	NightTalk	NightTalk	Pittsburgh	Fedko Fone	PCNC News	PCNC News	PCNC News	PCNC News	PCNC News	PCNC News
SPIKE	CSI: Crime Scene Invstgtn.	CSI: Crime Scene Invstgtn.	UFC Unleashed (N)	UFC Unleashed (N)	UFC Unleashed (N)	UFC Unleashed (N)	UFC Unleashed (N)	UFC Unleashed (N)	UFC Unleashed (N)	The Ultimate Fighter (N)	The Ultimate Fighter	CSI: Crime Scene Invstgtn.	Disorderly Conduct: Video	Disorderly Conduct: Video	Disorderly Conduct: Video	Disorderly Conduct: Video	Disorderly Conduct: Video
SYFY	Stargate SG-1 "Exodus"	Ghost Hunters	Ghost Hunters	Ghost Hunters	House-Payne	House-Payne	Meet-Browns	Meet-Browns	House-Payne	House-Payne	Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Sex and-City	*** "Not Another Teen Movie" (2001)	Bloopers	Steve Harvey	White Tower
TBS	Seinfeld	The Office	Name Is Earl	Name Is Earl	House-Payne	House-Payne	Meet-Browns	Meet-Browns	House-Payne	House-Payne	Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Sex and-City	*** "Not Another Teen Movie" (2001)	B		

FEATURES

VALLEY CLUB NOTES

Court Donora 372, CD of A

Court Donora 372 Catholic Daughters of the Americas held its August meeting at Our Lady of the Valley Church, St. Philip Neri worship site, Donora.

The Rosary was offered for Louise Pinchall, recently deceased member. The Rosary was led by the Rev. Joseph Oppong, Regent Adele McKita, Betty Mayernik, Betty Mauser and Vi Zielinski. Three Hail Mary's were also recited. Following the Rosary, the flag pledge was said.

McKita opened the meeting. Betty Duda, recording secretary, read the minutes of the previous meeting, and Treasurer Ann Rongaus gave the treasurer's report. They were accepted as reported.

Under correspondence, thank-you notes

were received from the Rev. Bud Falkenhan for the monetary gift presented at the Priest Appreciation Day luncheon, a thank you from the Louis Lendway family and District Deputy Lorette Forte.

McKita announced that the annual W.R.A.P. Campaign, White Ribbons Against Pornography, will run from Oct. 26-Nov. 2. The court will be distributing white ribbons after all Oct. 26 weekend Masses.

Following a brief meeting, the annual picnic lunch was served by McKita Mayernik, Duda, Mary Tautkus and Rongaus.

McKita read the closing prayer.

The attendance award was won by Duda.

Mon Valley Nurses Club

The September meeting of the Mon Valley Nurses Club began with a covered dish luncheon hosted by the officers. The meeting was then called to order by President Carolyn Manown with an opening prayer followed by the flag pledge. The secretary's report by Carolyn Kmetz and the treasurer's report by Virginia Saunders were both approved as read.

Gas cards from Apprise were given to the club members for going to meetings and counseling.

Nineteen members went to the spring banquet. The group discussed whether it is necessary to take a bus for that amount.

The 2010 booklets were distributed. If there are any questions on the committees, please see one of the officers.

Eleanor Barron and Juliann Shutterly

audited the treasurer's books and found them to be in perfect order.

Members will continue to bring in non-perishable food items to all meetings. They will be distributed to nearby food banks.

Correspondence was read from Paula Golle and the family of Jane Haines.

If anyone is interested in CEU's, see Manown.

The history of the year 2008-2009 was read by historian Sue Dunlop with both tears and laughter.

Two new members were welcomed, Donna Malmgren and Rowena Mason.

The kitty was won by Manown, and the door prize by Nancy Williamson. The penny card winner was Barron.

With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned.

CALENDAR WATCH

Thursday

■ Bishop Phelan Assembly 911 Fourth Degree Knights of Columbus of the Mon Valley meeting, Charleroi Knights of Columbus home, rosary, 7:15 p.m., meeting, 7:30 p.m.

■ Fall story time begins, California Area Public Library, 6 p.m.

■ Public first aid instruction, Monongahela Valley Hospital Anthony M. Lombardi Education Conference Center, 6 p.m.

■ Understanding your Diabetes Medication, Monongahela Valley Hospital Anthony M. Lombardi Education Conference Center, 6 p.m.

■ Monessen Public Library and District Center board of trustees meeting, library, 5:15 p.m.

■ Fall story time begins, Rostraver Public Library.

■ Cub Scout signup, Charleroi Elementary Center, 7 p.m.

■ Free spaghetti dinner, sponsored by Northern Section of the Greater Purpose Team Ministries, Roscoe United Methodist Church, 4:30 to 6 p.m.

■ St. John Altar Society of Perryopolis meeting, social center, 7:30 p.m.

■ Angel Food Ministry signups, First Presbyterian Church, 609 Chess St., Monongahela, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

■ Overeaters Anonymous meeting, Mon Valley Community Health Center, Monessen, 7:30 p.m.

VALLEY GRAPEVINE

Historical Society to meet Thursday

The Monongahela Area Historical Society will hold a meeting 7 p.m. Thursday in the parlor room of the First Presbyterian Church, Sixth and West Main streets, Monongahela. Dr. John Kent Folmar will discuss his most recent book, "California PA 1849-1881: The History of a Boat Building Town. Steamboats, including Transports, Tin Clads, and Rams in the Civil War: Education, Politics, Temperance, Religion and Social Life." Folmar, a professor emeritus of California University, is also president of the Monongahela River Buffs.

Mucy book signing set in Monongahela

Area author and illustrator Brittany Mucy will visit the Monongahela Area Library 6:30 p.m. Thursday for a book signing. Her book "An ABS Bestiary," uses imaginary creatures from Afellytoe to Zeffelbum in an alphabet book. A portion of the evening's proceeds will benefit the library.

IU 1 board sets meeting

The regular monthly meeting of the Intermediate Unit 1 board of directors will be held in the board room of the Intermediate Unit 1 Central Office, One Intermediate Unit Drive, Coal Center, 7:30 p.m. Thursday.

Festival of Bands planned at BVA

The BVA Festival of Bands will be held 1 p.m. Saturday at James Weir Stadium. Marching bands from Monessen and Ringgold will perform. There will also be 50/50, Chinese auction, bake sale and food.

Bentleyville Library Friends plan meeting

The Friends of the Bentleyville Public Library will meet 6:30 p.m. Monday at the library. Fundraising efforts will be discussed and new member are encouraged to attend.

Highway safety programs planned

Seniors for Safe Driving presents highway safety education programs for seniors 55 and older. The programs are certified by the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation. Successful completion of the program makes seniors eligible for a 5 percent discount on their automobile insurance. If you have never attended a

program, you must attend for two days. To qualify for a one-day program, you must have taken a program in the past. The next scheduled program will be held 10 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Monday and Tuesday. To register for a class, call 1-800-559-4880 or visit www.seniorsforsafedriving.com.

Washington Township Seniors set meeting

The Washington Township Area Senior Citizens will meet 7 p.m. Monday at the Center on the Hill.

Italian Heritage Society to meet

The Italian American Heritage Society of Monessen will celebrate its 15th anniversary at its regular meeting 7:30 p.m. Oct. 15 at the Epiphany Chapel in Monessen. Since refreshments will be provided, it is requested that all members attending call Rene Moncini at (724) 684-9235, Angela Caporossi at (724) 684-4149, Jack Cattaneo at (724) 258-9464 or Fred Fundy at (724) 929-5439. Let us know no later than Oct. 8 of your intentions. A reminder is given that annual dues must have been paid for a member to be considered active and to participate in this and other activities.

Slovak Heritage group to meet

The Mon Valley Slovak Cultural Heritage Society will have a dinner meeting 6 p.m. Monday at Hoss's Steak and Sea House, Rostraver Township.

Legion Auxiliary to meet Monday

The American Legion Auxiliary Unit 22, of Charleroi, will meet 7 p.m. Monday at the post.

G-20 Summit panel to meet

A panel of faculty experts from California University will discuss the history and significance and controversy of the G-20 economic summit at a presentation 11 a.m. Thursday in Morgan Hall auditorium on the Cal U campus. Speakers will include Dr. Andrae Marak, Dr. Ismail Cole, Dr. Mohamed Yamba, Dr. Marta McClintock-Comeaux and Dr. Michael L. Hummel.

Rabies clinic set in Rostraver

The Rostraver Township Lions Cub fall rabies clinic will be held 2 to 4 p.m. Saturday behind Hogan's Golf, Route 201, Rostraver Township.

CRAFT OF THE WEEK

'Check-It-Out' afghans easy to make

If you've been crocheting awhile, it's probably getting more difficult to find projects that incorporate designs and techniques you haven't already tried. Wouldn't it be great to find something truly fresh and different? If you're a crocheter looking for something unique, look no further and "check" this out.

You can find the perfect remedy for the crochet blahs in a full-color, 24-page guidebook, "Check-It-Out Afghans." The book features five unique and fanciful projects built around different arrangements of a crochet basic—the simple check. Each project includes a materials list and comprehensive, step-by-step instructions to ensure that you get great results.

If you're a beginner, information about gauge, abbreviations, hooks and yarn will help you get started. Full-color photos that make it easy to choose a design and get started round out the collection.

Designs include "Cross Check" (pictured here; an "on-the-go" project built from individual squares), the elegant "Royalty Checks," "A Maze in Checks" (which features an actual maze), the leftover-friendly "Border Check Scrap Afghan" and "Woven Curly Checks" (which has wonderful texture).

The "Check-It-Out Afghans" guidebook, No. LA3854, is \$8.95. You can find 12 other



'Cross Check' afghan

unique and lovely afghans to crochet in a 33-page guidebook, "A Year of Afghans," No. LA3254, available for \$9.95. Please include \$4 for postage and handling and allow about two weeks for delivery.

To order by mail, clip this article and send it with a check or money order to U-Bild Features, c/o The Valley Independent, 3800 Oceanic Drive, Ste. 107, Oceanside, CA 92056. To order by credit card, call 1-800-828-2453. Visit U-Bild on the Web at craftbook.com.



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Corning/World Kitchen Retirees Association

The Corning/World Kitchen Retirees' Association met Sept. 11 at Riverside Place, Charleroi. Vice President Alexis Lovas called the meeting to order with prayer and the flag pledge.

A moment of silence was held for members who have passed away since the last meeting.

Wilma Demko read the minutes. Jeannette Purcell gave the treasurer's report. Lovas welcomed back Phil

Lopresti, and she introduced Shelva Haileyesus as a new member. Haileyesus worked as a kiln operator in upper factory at World Kitchen.

Lovas stated that President Colette Sphar would be back from vacation for the next meeting. She will be discussing the Christmas party, and if anyone would like to be on the committee, let her know.

"Happy Birthday" was sung to Lovas.

Alma McLaughlin won the membership drawing. Kay Joseph and Lovas won the half and half. Helen Bellan and Lovas won the activity drawing.

The next meeting will be held on 2 p.m. Oct. 13.

The meeting was adjourned and coffee and donuts were served.

CELEBRITY CIPHER

by Luis Campos

Celebrity Cipher cryptograms are created from quotations by famous people, past and present.

Each letter in the cipher stands for another.

Today's clue: L equals M

"VCA WGX YG MTA DCM OWTXT

OMTTX, XGBTA OWTL DMCL

AMCRVWO, AFXTGXT ... IRO WT

YGKKCO XGBT OWTL DMCL DCHX."

NCWK LRFM

PREVIOUS SOLUTION: "... if I were a bird I would fly about the earth seeking the successive autumns." - George Eliot

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VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) -- Be prepared to adjust to developments as they arise, and a critical objective of yours will become easier to reach. You'll find the key to success is flexibility, not inflexibility.

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Partial listing, glassware, furniture, tools, collectibles, see auctionzip.com for complete listing. Real Estate 12 noon, 1 story brick home w/kitchen/dining area, living room, 3 bedroom, 2 bath, full basement w/garage. Recorded Washington Co. deed #3214-0532. Terms: 10% down day of sale. Non refundable. Balance due on transfer of deed. Owner has the right to reject any or all bids. Cash or approved check w/ proper ID. Food available.
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WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 2009

THE BIG BARN



Lynda Murphy, of Perry Township, looks through the assortment of candy available at The Big Barn. The Perry Township store has a number of customers who have been shopping there since it opened in 1955.

Jim Ference/
The Valley Independent

Loyal customers support store

The business was started in 1955 by the father of current owner Jim Bohatch.

By **JEFF PIKULSKY**
Staff Writer
jpikulsky@tribweb.com

Long-time customers like Dolores Logodya attest to the freshness and quality of products that have been a mainstay at The Big Barn Country Store & Deli in Perryopolis for more than half a century.

"The lunch meat and the ham," the Perry Township resident said are her favorite Big Barn items. "They have a nice selection of bread and I started getting the ice cream. I have company that comes from New Jersey and Virginia. They don't have ham like we get here. People that were here years ago still say they've never found ham like this. They like it so much."

Since 1955, the country store has been a popular stop along Route 51 for locals and passers-by alike.

Logodya was a customer there before current owner, Jim Bohatch, 50, was born. Bohatch took over running the business from his late father, Andy Sr., 32 years ago.

The younger Bohatch began working with his father at the age of 12.

"I did everything from unloading trucks to waiting on customers," he said.

While Bohatch gained an appreciation for what it takes to run a business, he never took the customer for

Valley Survivors

This weekly feature honors a "Valley Survivor" — one of the many Mid-Mon Valley businesses, organizations and institutions that began when the local economy was booming, survived the financial havoc created by the decline of the domestic steel industry and remain viable today.

granted:

"When you get older, and you taste success as a kid, how good this business was in the '70s for my dad, you just automatically assume that when you're older, business is going to come through the door," he said. "It doesn't work that way, so I had to retrain my whole thinking process about how I do business. And doing that was retooling and just getting away from being a regular store and being a specialty store."

The Big Barn has gone through many phases.

"He started it as an open-air produce market," Bohatch said of his father.

"The original store burned down in 1969. It was actually a larger store than this. It's changed a lot over the years. It went to a regular store through the '70s and '80s. It started in the late '80s-early '90s becoming a real specialty store."

Bohatch said he decided to reinvent the business about 20 years ago.

He began focusing more on ways to attract a younger crowd while keeping the core items devoted customers have loved for years, such as fresh meat from the deli.

"The deli was always here since the '60s. People used to leave lunch buckets here and they'd be packed for the next day," Bohatch said. "We started really big with the Amish products and the specialty stuff in the '80s and early '90s."

"What used to be like a lot of things out of the deli and meat that people would take home and cook, it's all quick stuff for people that grab and go now."

Bohatch said changing the business model allowed him to widen his customer base.

"I think that the businesses that survive in our area, you've got to be service-oriented. You've got to be people-oriented," he said. "You've got to have good product, and then after that, you've got to be a little bit imaginative with what you have and what you do."

"You've got to realize when you're an older business, your clientele dies, so you have to get a younger core base and you have to kind of move on."

The Big Barn is now most known for its old-fashioned candy section and Amish beef jerky.

The candy section replaced the former produce area.

"The beef jerky and the candy is slowly moving up to overtake a lot of things that used to be the big part of the store," Bohatch said.

Bohatch relies on trial and error when picking the sweets he wants to sell.

"Everything is not a hit, but some things are big hits," he said. "It is nostalgic candy. I've searched long and hard on the Internet to find. It's that nostalgic thing that people grew up with."

The small team of long-time employees provides input on what items to try.

"My clerks are involved with that, too. I ask them. We have a different age range with the clerks and we try to find out what they're into," Bohatch said.

Bohatch said he has even been asked to order candy for weddings.

The array of Amish foods, fresh beef jerky, deli meats and cheese have kept customers coming back, too,



Jim Ference/The Valley Independent

The Big Barn features a collection of classic products that bring back memories of its 1955 opening.

Bohatch said.

More than 50 companies — including Amish purveyors from Pennsylvania, Ohio, Maryland, West Virginia and Indiana — provide items for the Big Barn shelves.

"We find a lot of small companies like to come to a smaller place like us to kind of set up a test balloon," Bohatch said.

Reflecting on the years he's spent at The Big Barn, Bohatch said his commitment to the business was tested about midway through his tenure as owner.

"I'd say all the way through the '80s to the early '90s," he said of the difficult times. "I think working seven days a week saved me."

"The Valley has really been a good, supportive area for me, even through the tough times."

Devotion to the business had been a family trademark.

"After the fire in '69, my parents worked out of a tent outside selling produce on the property, and then this building was erected in the 1970s. They had no insurance. Everything was lost in the fire," Bohatch said.

The Bohatch family has preserved the original look of the first Big Barn, which burned down in the 1960s.

The old, red wooden frame building that houses the

business now was modeled after the original.

Jim Bohatch said the next step is to add a section for baked goods, which is currently being phased in.

Employee Ruth Lint has offered her baking experience.

Bohatch said bread and pastries will be made on weekends, and other baked items will be sold.

"We've baked pies probably for about the last 10 years. That's real successful," he said.

Bohatch said he promotes a relaxed and welcoming atmosphere at the business.

He is quick to chat with his customers.

"The neatest thing is people that have moved out of the area that maybe I gave them a piece of candy as a kid and now they're coming through the door and I have no idea who they are," he said.

Keeping an open ear at the business has paid off for Bohatch.

"I listen a lot about what people say and what they like and what they don't like about the store, and things that they expect to see," he said. "What we've been doing a lot is we ask people where they're from."

Bohatch said The Big Barn has built a reputation for quality, convenience and variety.

"We hear everything from, 'This is such a neat store that it takes you back to

your childhood,' to 'It's nice that there's still something like this around,'" he said. "People on weekends expect to come in here and smell bread and buy a little bit of lunch meat and cheese, and if they're going to the mountains or something, to make a sandwich on the way, and pick up the candy."

"We're kind of like a family fun stop, or a destination point. That's actually what we are now, because we're not in a strip mall. We're out here by ourselves."

Bohatch said The Big Barn name has traveled far outside of the Mid-Mon Valley.

"We've been in at least every state, including other countries," he said. "We used to actually keep a map in here in the '70s, and where people were going back to from here, we would put a pin there."

Like Bohatch did as a child, his 11-year-old daughter, Jaimie, has taken to the business.

"She's already waiting on customers," he said. "She loves it."

Bohatch said it's much too early to tell if his little girl will one day take over.

"It's been my whole life," he said. "I'll probably be like my dad and do it until the day I'm no longer here."

The Big Barn is open from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. every day.

The business can be reached at (724) 736-2710.



Jim Ference/The Valley Independent

Sixteen-month-old Gus Lions relaxes behind his Whirly Pop at the Big Barn.

Auto engineers plot career changes

The economic downturn has forced many to consider other options.

By DAVID RUNK
Associated Press Writer

DETROIT — After Jerry Tester lost his job as a contract engineer at General Motors, it soon became clear that the struggling auto industry wouldn't be the place where he would work again.

The 45-year-old spent months unemployed before a tip from a friend led him to the Talascend Global Training Academy, where he took a crash course in piping design that landed him a job at Marathon Oil Corp.'s refinery in Detroit.

For Tester, his nearly 20 years of auto experience gave him the foundation to switch to the oil and gas industry.

"We already have the mindset and abilities to think along design engineering lines," he said.

Years of downsizing in the U.S. auto industry have left behind a pool of engineers and designers looking for work. Some seek

training in plug-in hybrid electrics and cutting-edge vehicle safety systems, while others are turning to retraining programs like Talascend's to reach beyond the auto industry for a new line of work.

The academy was started in February by Talascend LLC, a staffing company that partnered with Macomb Community College, which has a history of teaching computer-aided design for the auto industry. Of the roughly 50 people trained in six-week sessions, the first two — including Tester — recently got jobs.

"The people who have gone through the training programs early are recognizers of the fact that, while they might get pulled back into the auto industry, they might not," said Jim Sawyer, vice provost of career programs at Macomb Community College. "If they do, it will be on a project basis with no security."

It's that future, Tester said, that led him to Marathon Oil. Between auto industry jobs and five years on active duty with the Michigan National Guard, Tester had never

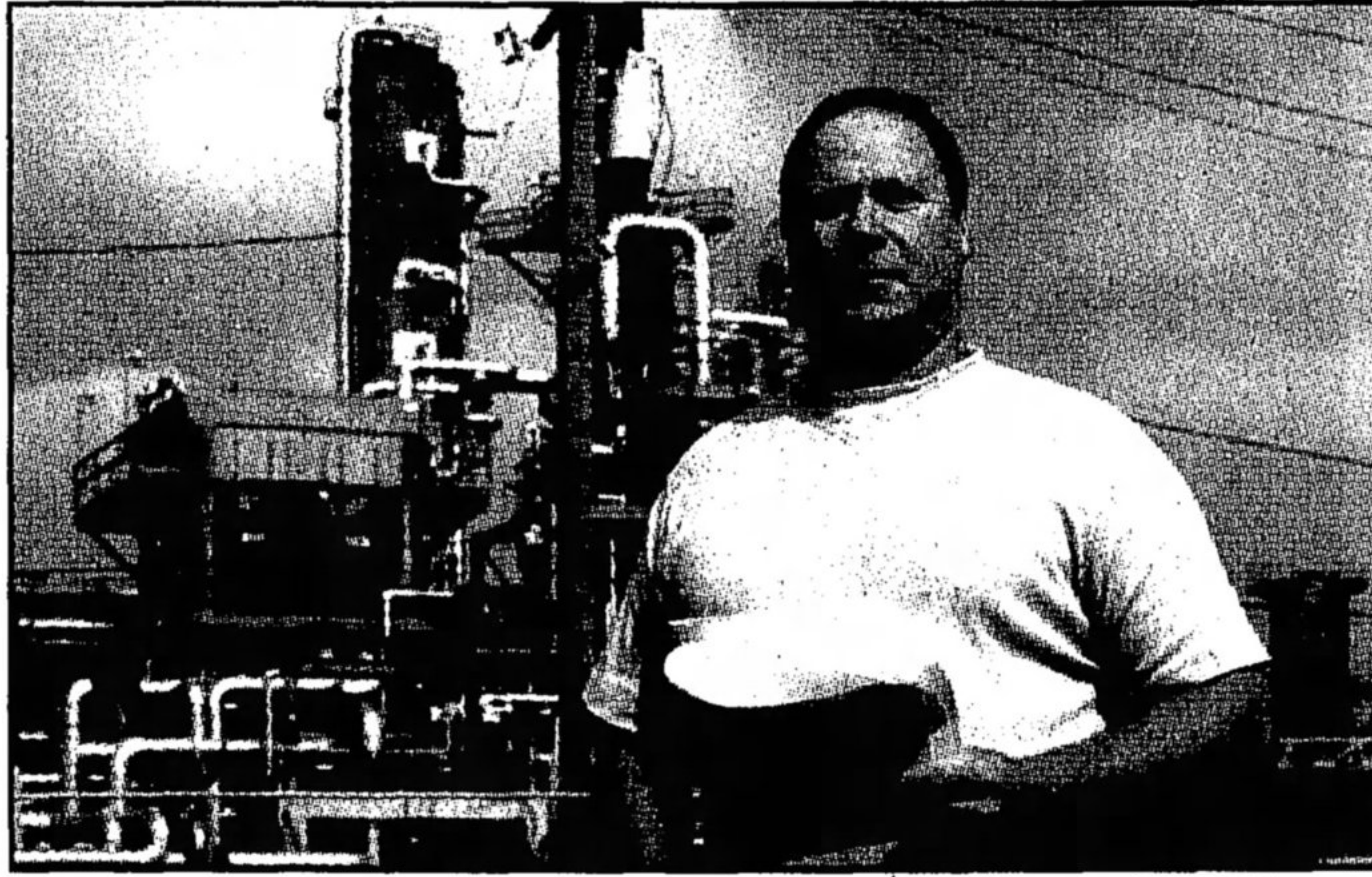
been without a job. But after 10 years of working at GM in the Detroit suburb of Warren, he couldn't find new work in the auto industry.

He describes the Talascend program as "high-intensity": six 40-hour weeks at the college.

The idea was to give him enough training that, coupled with his engineering background, would be the equivalent of 5 years' experience in piping design.

The training costs \$7,500, with \$5,000 picked up by a state program and the rest paid by graduates after they get a job. The financial commitment helps ease potential employers' worries about whether the engineers and designers are committed to a career change. Talascend subsidizes additional costs.

Tester's training wrapped up in May, and last month he landed a job. Companies can hire graduates directly or as contract employees through Talascend. In Tester's case, he's working for Marathon Oil as a senior designer with Talascend. Without the training, he said: "They wouldn't



Associated Press

Former General Motors contract engineer Jerry Tester is shown on a job site at the Marathon Oil Detroit Refinery.

have even looked at us."

Other graduates have been getting job interviews. Jason Dawson, the academy's president, said his company in recent years had found unmet demand for engineers and designers in the oil and gas industry. Seeing more

engineers and designers from the auto industry on the job market led to the creation of the academy, he said.

"We have a tremendous wealth of design and engineering experience in the Detroit market," Dawson said.

Preschool opens in Monessen

Learning Tree offers low student-to-teacher ratio.

By COLLEEN POLLOCK
For The Valley Independent

MONESSEN — Doors opened to a new learning adventure for preschoolers this month.

The Learning Tree at St. Paul's Lutheran Church on Grand Boulevard is planning a variety of discovery and educational programs as well as a number of enrollment options to meet the needs of both the children and parents.

The preschool is open to youngsters ages 3 to 5. They must be potty trained in order to attend the sessions.

Lindsay Boger, of Smithton, and Jaime Broyles, of Belle Vernon, operate the new preschool that offers two-, three- and five-day enrollment plans for both half-day and full-day sessions. At the preschool, Boger said children receive greater than adequate attention from teachers who have experience in early childhood education and development.

"I prefer to keep the number of youngsters per teacher under the 10-to-1 ratio required by the state," she said. "I like to keep that number low, maybe six to eight students per teacher."

Boger took over operations at the long-established Learning Tree in Star Junction several years ago. She recently decided to relocate to a site that had a greater need for the service.

"The Frazier School District opened a free program with no income guidelines and that took away a large part of our business," said Boger. "We decided on Monessen because of the available building suited for a preschool and because there seemed to be a need in Monessen."

Boger holds a specialized associate's degree in early childhood education from the Laurel Business Institute. She worked at the Learning Tree in Star Junction several years before taking over operations.

Broyles is also experienced in early child care.

According to the operators, the



Jim Ference/The Valley Independent

Lindsay Boger, left, of The Learning Tree, reads to her preschool class at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Monessen.

preschoolers enjoy daily story time, age-appropriate crafts, worksheets geared to learning letters, numbers, days of the weeks, games, puzzles, sing-a-longs, dramatic play and other creative and sensory experiences.

"We teach them all to write their first and last name," said Boger.

Boger said children will be introduced to the broader community through programs brought in-house. She said the local fire department will present a fire safety demonstration at the school in October.

Boger said word of mouth is the best advertiser for the business and past customer satisfaction has been a great compliment to the Learning Tree.

"A family from Star Junction and one from Perryopolis are enrolling their kids here in Monessen because they liked the experience (in Star Junction)," said Boger. "And we're hearing good things from the Frazier elementary school saying that our former students learned a lot at the Learning Tree. And that's really nice to hear."

Missy Balentine of Perryopolis, whose two sons are now in elementary school, said she was more than pleased with the job the preschool did in helping one son obtain needed speech therapy and the other overcome his shyness.

"It made a world of difference to them," said Balentine. "It was a place not only to learn, but to learn how to make friends."

Joannie Celaschi, of Fayette City, also has two children who attended the Learning Tree. The parent attributes her children's success in



elementary school to their former preschool.

"It is a great loss to our community, but a wonderful addition to the Mon Valley," said Celaschi.

With the coming of full-day kindergarten, Boger said preschool is a logical choice for making the transition easier for most families.

"It is definitely a benefit," said Boger. "Since kindergarten is all day, it is better that children are introduced to some type of educational structure and used to being away from parents for more than a few hours."

Boger said early childhood education has been her first and probably only love.

"I kind of knew from the time I was very little that working with small children is something I wanted to do," said Boger. "I really enjoy it. It is definitely the right thing for me."

Broyles said each day with preschoolers brings new joys and new challenges.

"Working with 3- to 5-year-olds is a challenging, yet fun and exciting experience," said Broyles. "I think our new location will benefit many families."

The preschool registration fee will be waived for those who enroll in September. For more information about the Learning Tree, call (724) 557-2876.

off-road vehicles that initially were developed for military use. GM wants to sell the brand because it loses money, but Hummer has a highly rated dealership network that Sichuan Tengzhong may be after.

Sichuan Tengzhong is a little-known Chinese truck and industrial equipment maker. The sale could still be blocked by Chinese regulators who are questioning its wisdom.

Tengzhong's CEO, Yang Yi, has said the company will keep Hummer's headquarters and operations in the U.S., while investing in research and development of more fuel-efficient vehicles.

Your Financial Future

Seniors face key financial decisions

A soon-to-be-released research paper by a Harvard professor deals with the effect of cognitive function on seniors' investment portfolios.

This is important in an area like ours with an older population.

Dementia explodes after 60, doubling every five years to more than 30 percent of the population over age 85. This creates a number of financial planning issues that must be dealt with before this time.

It is very important that powers of attorney, beneficiary designations, living wills and other legal documents have been properly coordinated. These have often been created independent of each other and can create conflicts or unintended results if not rectified.

It is also important that the investment risk levels are adjusted to reflect older age and diminished capacity. Someone will have to be selected to administer the portfolio and make investment decisions.

Cost of medical care rises and you may have to make provisions for the high cost of long-term care. All options should be explored in relation to the person's overall net worth. There will be a major difference in the choices selected depending on individual conditions.

Also consider your long-term-care options that have no out-of-pocket costs. These choices must be made while you have options and still have the ability to choose alternatives.

The Government Accounting Office has concluded that if no action is taken to "make the US private pension system more effective in protecting workers from risk to accumulating and preserving adequate savings for retirement ... a considerable number of Americans face the prospect of a reduced standard of living." A number of options are being considered in Washington, including some possible degree of required annuitization. No formal decision has been made. A lot is at stake

Gary BOATMAN



because it has been estimated that in "households headed by an individual 65-74, the median net worth including net home equity and excluding public and private defined benefit assets was \$239,400 in 2007." Make sure you have a comprehensive plan that deals with these issues.

The GAO has recommended avoiding cross-selling annuities and reverse mortgages. The Senate Special Committee on Aging says this activity may be inappropriate and possibly illegal.

When this happens, someone will suggest that you take out a reverse mortgage on your home and invest the proceeds in an annuity or some other investment. While annuities may be good investments in certain situations, this is not one. You could already get cash flow out of the reverse mortgage without tying your money up in another investment vehicle.

Reverse mortgages used by themselves help some people over 62 access the equity in their homes. Values that you can receive have been negatively affected by the downturn in housing values. As with all financial decisions, you need to carefully study all cost, benefits and restrictions before making a decision. It is often best to consult with a financial professional.

Gary Boatman, a local businessman who serves as president of the Greater Monessen Chamber of Commerce, is a certified financial planner.

To help you consider many of the issues of retirement, we are offering a free 14-page Life Guide, "Retirement and Social Security." To get your free copy, e-mail your name and address to gwb.financial@comcast.net.

Hummer buyer may put HQ near Detroit

DETROIT (AP) — The Chinese company that's in the running to buy Hummer from General Motors Co. likely will locate the brand's corporate headquarters near Detroit, a spokesman said Tuesday.

Spokesman Nick Richards says Sichuan Tengzhong Heavy Industrial Machinery Corp., which is still negotiating to buy the brand, initially will employ about 100 people at the headquarters with plans to grow that to 300.

The headquarters would house global design, engineering, product planning, purchasing, sales, service, marketing and financing, Richards

said. The Michigan Economic Development Authority on Monday approved a \$20.6 million state tax credit over 10 years to lure the company to Michigan, Richards said. It also had considered sites in South Carolina and Tennessee.

The tax credit is contingent on Sichuan Tengzhong closing the deal for Hummer with GM.

The Michigan Economic Development Corp. says the Hummer headquarters also would create another 641 jobs with other companies.

The Hummer brand features large

BUSINESS**BUSINESS BRIEFS****Ductmate earns 'green' award for manufacturers**

Ductmate Industries was named 2008 Sustainable Manufacturer of the Year as part of the Pittsburgh Business Times' Manufacturer of the Year Awards.

For the first time, the awards included a sustainable company category, which recognizes green-thinking and sustainable business practices.

Ductmate offers energy efficient air-flow products for the heating, ventilation and air conditioning industry.

Ductmate President and CEO Ray Yeager said the company was a leader in "green" practices before anyone knew the meaning of the word.

In the mid-1990's, Ductmate developed a water-based duct sealant that was an environmentally friendly alternative to solvent-based sealants.

The company more recently introduced the GreenSeam snap-lock pipe product, which reduces leakage by about 95 percent.

Yeager receives Business Pacesetter honor

Ductmate President and CEO Ray Yeager has won

the 2009 Smart Business Pacesetter Award, which recognizes outstanding business and community leaders in the Pittsburgh region.

He received the award Monday at the 23rd annual St. Barnabas CEO Leadership Conference.

Yeager's accomplishments will be featured in the October edition of Smart Business Pittsburgh.

The 2009 conference theme is "How to Succeed in Business ... in Troubled Times."

As a 2009 Pacesetter, Yeager and DMI are finalists for the "Best Story" award in the mid-sized division, one of three categories.

Yeager joined DMI in 1984 as controller and rose through the ranks before being appointed president in 2006.

Under Yeager, DMI has received a \$100,000 Product Innovation Grant for development of GreenSeam II, designed to reduce duct leakage.

Yeager has also served on committees for Heating, Air-conditioning & Refrigeration Distributors International and the Sheet Metal & Air-conditioning Contractors National Association.

Yeager is a member of the Sheet Metal & Air-conditioning Contractors of Western Pennsylvania.

FDIC could seek bailout from banks

Special emergency fee also considered.

By **DANIEL WAGNER**
AP Business Writer

WASHINGTON — Regulators have approached big banks about borrowing billions to shore up the dwindling fund that insures regular deposit accounts.

The loans would go to the fund maintained by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corp. that insure depositors when banks fail, said two industry officials familiar with the conversations, who requested anonymity because the plans are still evolving.

Regulators also are considering levying a special emergency fee on all banks, charging regular fees early or tapping a \$100 billion credit line with the U.S. Treasury, the officials said.

FDIC spokesman Andrew Gray said that while borrowing from the banks "is an option, it's not being given serious consideration." The board meeting where the plans will be discussed is scheduled for next week.

But a government official familiar with the FDIC board's thinking said earlier Tuesday that the plan was being considered. He requested anonymity because he was not authorized to discuss the matter.

The fund, which insures deposit accounts up to



Sheila Bair

\$250,000, is at its lowest point since 1992, at the height of the savings-and-loan crisis. Ongoing losses on commercial real estate and other loans continue to cause multiple bank failures each week.

FDIC Chairman Sheila Bair wants to avoid tapping the Treasury credit line, and Treasury officials insist that the strongest big banks have enough extra capital to operate, the officials said.

Comptroller of the Currency John Dugan, who is a voting member of the FDIC board, has said he doesn't want to levy another fee on banks while the industry is still recovering.

The loans would give big, healthy banks a safe harbor for their money and would limit their risk-taking, said Daniel Alpert, managing director of the investment bank Westwood Capital LLC in New York.

It also would allow the industry's strongest players — which still rely on FDIC loan guarantees and other emergency subsidies — to help weaker banks avoid paying another fee, he said.

"Lots of banks are going to require more capital, and (Bair is) trying to rob from

the rich and give to the poor," said Alpert, who supports the plan as a creative way to avoid another bailout.

Bankers and lobbyists strongly support the plan to have some big banks lend money to the fund, since it would help still-struggling institutions avoid another fee.

In a letter to Bair Monday, American Bankers Association CEO Ed Yingling endorsed borrowing from the industry or collecting regular premiums early as alternatives to charging another fee.

An earlier special fee already is having a negative economic impact, and another fee "may do more harm than good," he said.

The FDIC may settle on a plan that combines two or more of the options being considered.

A spokesman for the agency did not respond to requests for comment Tuesday morning. The New York Times reported details of the possible bank lending

plan earlier Tuesday.

The FDIC estimates bank failures will cost the fund around \$70 billion through 2013. Ninety-four banks have failed so far this year. Hundreds more are expected to fall in coming years largely because of souring loans for commercial real estate.

The FDIC's fund has slipped to 0.22 percent of insured deposits, below a congressionally mandated minimum of 1.15 percent. The \$10.4 billion in the fund at the end of June is down from \$13 billion at the end of March, and \$45.2 billion in the second quarter of 2008.

Bair last week said the FDIC board would meet at the end of the month to consider options including taking Treasury funds, assessing fees on banks in advance and again increasing the fees they must pay.

"We don't want to stress the industry too much at this time, when they're still in the process of recovery," she said.

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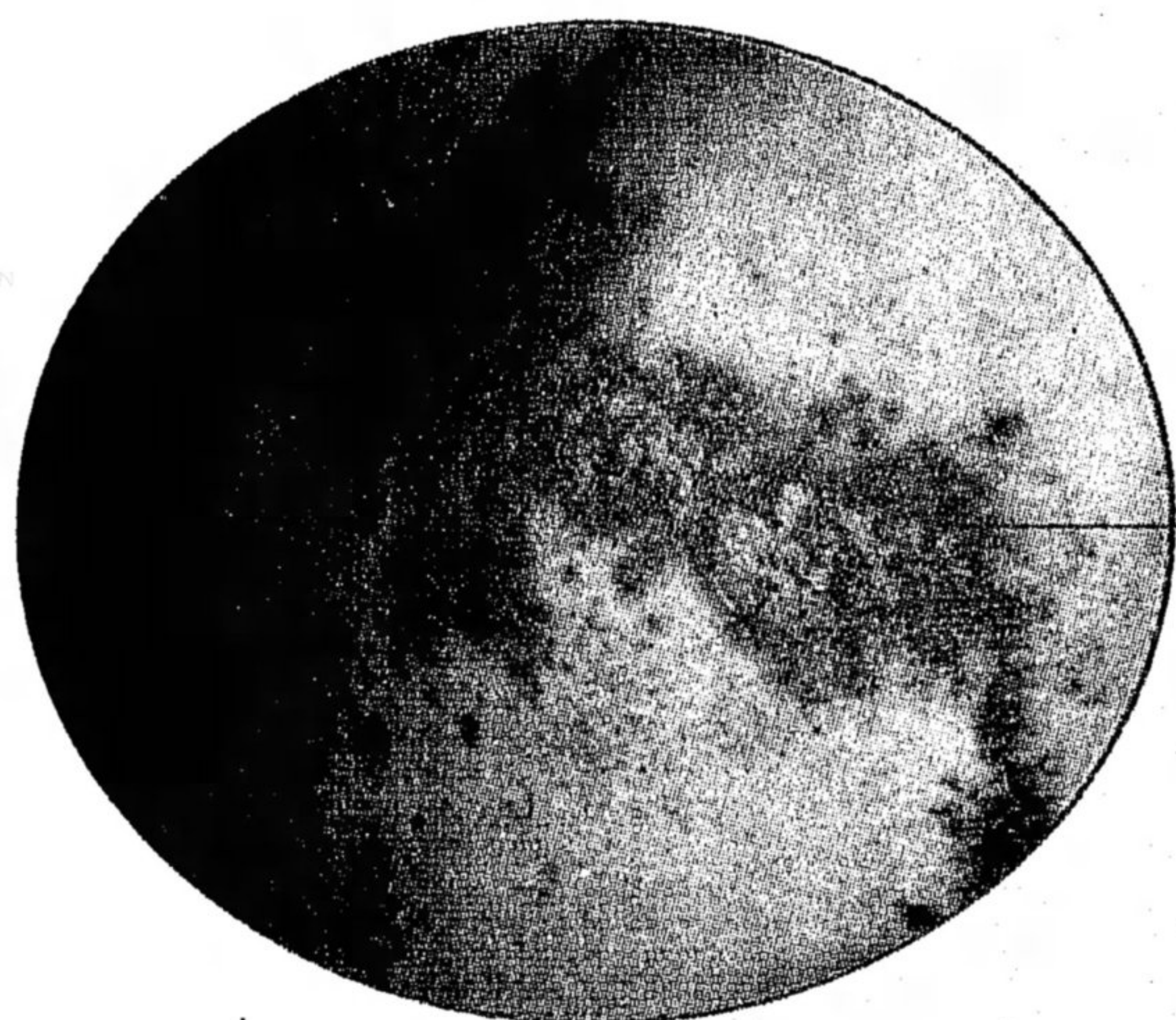
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IMAGINE THIS BLISTERING RASH
ALONG WITH STABBING PAIN



AND YOU'LL HAVE
AN IDEA OF WHAT IT CAN BE
LIKE TO HAVE SHINGLES.

IF YOU HAD CHICKENPOX AS A CHILD,
YOU COULD GET SHINGLES NOW.

The chickenpox virus is still in your body. It can resurface as Shingles, a painful, blistering rash. The Shingles rash usually lasts up to 30 days, and for most the pain lessens as the rash heals. But some people who develop Shingles experience long-term pain that can last for months, even years.

ZOSTAVAX is a vaccine that can help prevent Shingles.

ZOSTAVAX is used to prevent Shingles in adults 60 years of age or older. Once you reach age 60, the sooner you get vaccinated, the better your chances of protecting yourself from Shingles. ZOSTAVAX is given as a single shot. ZOSTAVAX cannot be used to treat Shingles, or the nerve pain that may follow Shingles, once you have it. Talk to your health care professional to see if ZOSTAVAX is right for you.

Important Safety Information

ZOSTAVAX may not fully protect everyone who gets the vaccine. You should not get ZOSTAVAX if you are allergic to any of its ingredients, including gelatin and neomycin, have a weakened immune system, take high doses of steroids, or are pregnant or plan to become pregnant. Possible side effects include redness, pain, itching, swelling, warmth, or bruising at the injection site, as well as headache. You are encouraged to report negative side effects of prescription drugs to the FDA. Visit www.fda.gov/medwatch or call 1-800-FDA-1088. Before getting vaccinated, talk to your health care professional about situations you may need to avoid after getting ZOSTAVAX. Please see the Patient Product Information below.

Before you get Shingles, ask about ZOSTAVAX.

ZOSTAVAX[®]
Zoster Vaccine Live
www.zostavax.com



For more information on the availability of ZOSTAVAX through the Merck Vaccine Patient Assistance Program, visit ZOSTAVAX.com/freevaccines or call 1-877-9 SHINGLES.

Patient Information about ZOSTAVAX[®] (pronounced "ZOS tah vax") Generic name: Zoster Vaccine Live

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You should read this summary of information about ZOSTAVAX[®] before you are vaccinated. If you have any questions about ZOSTAVAX after reading this leaflet, you should ask your health care provider. This information does not take the place of talking about ZOSTAVAX with your doctor, nurse, or other health care provider. Only your health care provider can decide if ZOSTAVAX is right for you.

What is ZOSTAVAX and how does it work?

ZOSTAVAX is a vaccine that is used for adults 60 years of age or older to prevent shingles (also known as zoster).

ZOSTAVAX contains a weakened chickenpox virus (varicella-zoster virus).

ZOSTAVAX works by helping your immune system protect you from getting shingles. If you do get shingles even though you have been vaccinated, ZOSTAVAX may help prevent the nerve pain that can follow shingles in some people.

ZOSTAVAX may not protect everyone who gets the vaccine. ZOSTAVAX cannot be used to treat shingles once you have it.

What do I need to know about shingles and the virus that causes it? Shingles is caused by the same virus

that causes chickenpox. Once you have had chickenpox, the virus can stay in your nervous system for many years. For reasons that are not fully understood, the virus may become active again and give you shingles. Age and problems with the immune system may increase your chances of getting shingles.

Shingles is a rash that is usually on one side of the body. The rash begins as a cluster of small red spots that often blister. The rash can be painful. Shingles rashes usually last up to 30 days and, for most people, the pain associated with the rash lessens as it heals.

Who should not get ZOSTAVAX?

You should not get ZOSTAVAX if you:

- are allergic to any of its ingredients.
- are allergic to gelatin or neomycin.
- have a weakened immune system (for example, an immune deficiency, leukemia, lymphoma, or HIV/AIDS).
- take high doses of steroids by injection or by mouth.
- are pregnant or plan to get pregnant.

You should not get ZOSTAVAX to prevent chickenpox.

Children should not get ZOSTAVAX.

How is ZOSTAVAX given?

ZOSTAVAX is given as a single dose by injection under the skin.

What should I tell my health care provider before I get ZOSTAVAX?

You should tell your health care provider if you:

- have or have had any medical problems.
- take any medicines, including nonprescription medicines, and dietary supplements.
- have any allergies, including allergies to neomycin or gelatin.
- had an allergic reaction to another vaccine.
- are pregnant or plan to become pregnant.
- are breast-feeding.

Tell your health care provider if you expect to be in close contact (including household contact) with newborn infants, someone who may be pregnant and has not had chickenpox or been vaccinated against chickenpox, or someone who has problems with their immune system. Your health care provider can tell you what situations you may need to avoid.

What are the possible side effects of ZOSTAVAX?

The most common side effects that people in the clinical studies reported after receiving the vaccine include:

- redness, pain, itching, swelling, warmth, or bruising where the shot was given.
- headache.

The following additional side effects have been reported in general use with ZOSTAVAX:

- allergic reactions, which may be serious and may include difficulty in breathing or swallowing. If you have an allergic reaction, call your doctor right away.
- fever
- hives at the injection site
- joint pain
- muscle pain

- rash
- rash at the injection site
- swollen glands near the injection site (that may last a few days to a few weeks)

Tell your health care provider if you have any new or unusual symptoms after you receive ZOSTAVAX.

What are the ingredients of ZOSTAVAX?

Active Ingredient: a weakened form of the varicella-zoster virus.

Inactive Ingredients: sucrose, hydrolyzed porcine gelatin, sodium chloride, monosodium L-glutamate, sodium phosphate dibasic, potassium phosphate monobasic, potassium chloride.

What else should I know about ZOSTAVAX?

Vaccinees and their health care providers are encouraged to call (800) 986-8999 to report any exposure to ZOSTAVAX during pregnancy.

This leaflet summarizes important information about ZOSTAVAX.

If you would like more information, talk to your health care provider or visit the website at www.ZOSTAVAX.com or call 1-800-622-4477.

Rx only

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